

Hafa Adai!

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Tinian budget cut to force furloughs, reductions-in-force. PAGE 3

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

ANTIVIRAL MEASURE

The cashier's counters at the newly reopened Himawari grocery store have been fitted with transparent panels as precautionary measures to ensure the safety of its staff and customers. The store is open from 6am to 6pm daily. The adjacent Himawari Restaurant is also open for lunch and dinner but only for take-out.

KRIZEL TUAZON

5th COVID-19 death in Guam

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam tested 38 individuals for COVID-19 last April 10 and all 38 showed negative results. That piece of good news was tempered just 24 hours later, when Guam saw its fifth COVID-19-related death, followed by three more positive cases last April 11.

See DEATH on Page 4

36 in isolation at Kanoa Resort

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

To separate those who have and don't have COVID-19 symptoms, the two groups are kept in separate facilities, with 36 people who, as of April 9, are in isolation at Kanoa Resort in Su-

pe, according to Esther Muña, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. chief executive officer.

Muña told *Saipan Tribune*, via video conference, that the people who are in isolation are those who have either tested positive or came

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AT A GLANCE	
As of 3pm, April 12, 2020	
GUAM	CNMI
Positive: 118* (DPHSS), 11** (NHRC), 4*** (DLS)	Positive: 11
Recovered: 58	Negative: 27
Deaths: 5	Pending: 9
	Deaths: 2
*Tested by Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services Public Health Lab	
**Tested by the Naval Health Research Center in California	
***Tested through a Diagnostic Laboratory Services	
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.	

20,000: US death toll overtakes Italy's

By KATHLEEN FOODY, AMY FORLITI and GEIR MOULSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP)—The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus eclipsed Italy's for the highest in the world Saturday, surpassing 20,000, as Chi-

See US on Page 4

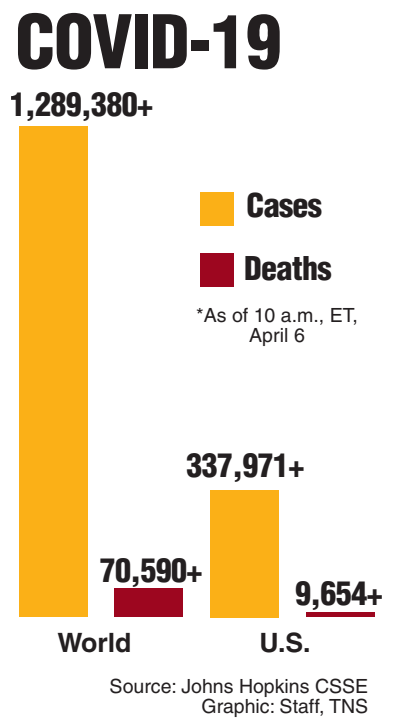
PSS to borrow \$5M from MPLT

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Public School System,

backed by three of five Board of Education members, have asked the Marianas Public Land Trust

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Private businesses and people have been showing their support to the CNMI's frontliners.

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NATION

Some doctors are moving away from using the breathing machines when they can.

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LIFE & STYLE

In the coronavirus lockdown, Russians are recreating art-works while stuck at home.

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Local

Manglona urges more legislative oversight over govt actions

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

With the CNMI continuing to experience economic turmoil, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) has called on Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) and House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) to call a joint session to address the recent budgetary issues affecting retirees and government employees.

In particular, Manglona finds it “troubling” that many of the steps the Torres administration is taking to salvage the economy—bringing governments personnel costs down by 50% through terminations and furloughs and possible non-full payment of the government pension on Wednesday—are being done solely by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. “It is troubling to know that these decisions are being executed single-handedly by the governor without any consultation with the CNMI Legislature,” said Manglona.

Torres recently invoked his authority to suspend statutory or regulatory provisions as part of an emergency declaration, but Manglona said it is incumbent on legislators to monitor the fiscal impact of this emergency declaration on “not only the remaining months of the fiscal year 2020 budget, but also on the upcoming [fiscal year] 2021 budget plan, which the governor submitted last week to the Legislature for its consideration.”

Manglona adds that the Legislature should immediately reinstate Section 203, the vetoed section of Public Law 21-08 (FY 2020 Budget Law). This would mandate the Finance secretary to submit its report to the Legislature monthly as opposed to quarterly.

“This Section 203 is extremely important, especially during this fiscal crisis when the need for transparency and accountability is critical in monitoring our government’s fiscal health,” Manglona said in his letter to legislative leaders.

Retirees’ pension

Manglona is also calling for immediate legislative action to address the 25% cut on retirees’ pension.

“It is one thing for the governor to transfer resources from a particular budgeted item to address the COVID-19 fight; but another for him to single-handedly make a decision to cut 25% of retirees’ full pension benefits without consulting the Legislature,” he said. “The governor should have known that the CNMI has an \$18-million tax settlement from IPI’s casino gross revenue taxes—\$10 million of which was paid in December 2019 and \$8 million supposedly to be paid a few months later.”

According to Manglona,

Public Law 20-34 specifically sets aside the first \$22 million of the funds deposited into the Casino Gross Revenue Tax account for the payment of retirement benefits, including the 25% of class members’ full benefits.

“If this \$18 million cannot be immediately accounted for, the Legislature needs to consider other options to make our *man’amko* whole with their full retirement pension,” he said.

One of these options, he said, is to restore the original intent of the CNMI casino law by amending Public Law 20-10 “to require that all mon-

ies from the exclusive casino license be earmarked for the 25% of class members’ full retirement benefits.

Employee furloughs

“The Legislature must play a key role in providing what government services and which employees shall remain, just as we are constitutionally mandated to do under a government shutdown in order to deliver services essential to the health, safety, and welfare of our people,” Manglona said.

Further, the senator called on the Legislature to discuss the negative impacts of furloughs, aside from the loss of income, such as the potential to lose health insurance coverage.

“Uncompensated expendi-

tures for health care services used by uninsured residents, without a doubt, will increase, potentially in the tens of millions. The government should, at a minimum, ensure the continuity of health insurance coverage for employees who have been furloughed,” he added.

With federal financial assistance coming to the CNMI, Manglona also said the Legislature should be ready to pass a local legislation, should it be needed to facilitate the immediate implementation of any such assistance.

“We must ensure that the CNMI Department of Labor is properly staffed to assist all terminated and furloughed government and private sector employees with the documentation work needed to hasten unemployment benefits that are available under the CARES Act.”

He also called on his colleagues to work with the Commonwealth Development Authority, Department of Commerce, and the Division of Revenue and Taxation to fast-track the provision of direct financial relief to small business owners.

Not working to protect the interest and livelihood of people would be legislative negligence and a betrayal of public trust, Manglona said. “It is not right for us, legislators, to be blindsided, muted, and left out on these unfamiliar pressing matters that could potentially have colossal impacts on the lives of many families in the CNMI,” he added.

OAG says judge’s ruling on restitution in fatal hit-and-run case is clear error

A man who died as a result of injuries in a vehicular hit-and-run case is entitled to restitution for the bills he incurred as a result of the crime, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. asserted that the Superior Court should amend its judgment to include the \$1,866 in bills from the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services to be paid to the victim, Melton Agulto.

“There is no question that Melton Agulto is the direct victim in this case,” said Glass in the government’s motion filed last Wednesday to reconsider part of the court’s order that the victim is not entitled to restitution for the CHCC and DFEMS bills.

To deny the victim’s estate recovery for these bills would be clear error and a manifest injustice, he added.

Last March 30, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that DFEMS and CHCC are not entitled to restitution over Agulto’s death because they are only third-party indirect victims.

Camacho denied the CNMI government’s request to hold Esekial “Easy” Smith liable to pay \$1,866 in restitution for medical services provided by DFEMS and CHCC to Agulto.

Camacho, however, found that Smith is liable for \$4,972 in restitution payment to the victim’s mother, Gloria Cabrera. The OAG requested a total of \$8,613 in restitution. Smith conceded that he owed \$4,972 in restitution.

The judge also ruled that voluntary offertory gifts to a priest performing the funeral mass were gifts and were therefore not economic losses for purposes of restitution.

In the government’s motion for reconsideration, Glass said Camacho did not rule on the issue of whether the victim would be awarded restitution for these bills.

Glass noted that Agulto may have already passed away from the injuries he sustained as a result of this crime, but he is still entitled to restitution, which his estate can collect for payment of these bills his estate will owe.

Glass argued that Camacho misapprehended the government’s position, and has not ruled on the issue it did present: whether Agulto can recover for the CHCC and DFEMS bills.

The prosecutor said the gov-

ernment presented at the hearing held last June 5 Roselynn Gibbons, the person in charge of CHCC’s billing. Glass said the government also presented the bills from DFEMS and CHCC to the court and that these bills were received as evidence. The CHCC bills consisted of the facility fees and professional fees. Glass said Gibbons testified that the hospital did bill Agulto and it expects to be paid, and that they would turn the billing over to collections if it goes unpaid.

As the hospital did bill Agulto, this is unquestionably a bill to the direct victim for which payment is expected, Glass said. He said the government made this argument at the hearing, and in both in its initial brief and its reply brief in regards to the court’s order for briefing.

According to court records, Agulto had gotten into physical altercations on the evening of Aug. 18, 2019—first at the San Vicente basketball court and then later at his home. The altercations caused Agulto to sustain injuries and he was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center. In the hospital Agulto acted belligerently to CHC personnel then fled on foot from the hospital. Police failed to locate him.

After midnight on Aug. 19, 2019, Smith, who was driving north in Puerto Rico, hit Agulto as the latter was walking in the middle of the street. Smith fled the scene after the accident. Agulto died as a result of his injuries.

In the same morning of the accident, Smith voluntarily surrendered to the police. On Jan. 30, 2019, Smith pleaded guilty to the charges of leaving an accident scene and reckless driving. He was sentenced to five years and six months imprisonment, with the last six months suspended. Smith was ordered to pay restitution to Agulto’s family and made eligible for work release while serving his sentence to pay the restitution.

The parties agreed that, at a minimum, Smith owed \$1,000 in restitution. The defendant immediately paid the amount from the bail money that he had posted.

The parties disagreed as to how much was owed in restitution and to whom.

Assistant public defender Jean Pierre Noguez, counsel for Smith, argued that DFEMS and CHCC were not victims in this case and are not entitled to restitution, and that the tort defense of comparative negligence should apply in this matter. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



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Tinian budget cut to force furloughs, reductions-in-force

Due to a governmentwide cut in revenue, the Tinian municipality has been directed to cut its municipal budget by 50% for

the remainder of the fiscal year, and this will result in many municipal employees being let go. Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan

said in a notice last Friday that he's left with no choice but to furlough and/or implement a reduction-in-force.

"As your mayor, this is the most gut-wrenching decision I have ever had to make and I've been agonizing how to lessen

the impact on each and every one of you and your families," he said in the notice.

Aldan said his Cabinet, the Tinian leadership, and key management staff have been working to ensure that the budget cut

does not hamper the continued delivery of public programs and services on the island.

"I have also instructed to ensure that we provide as much assistance and support to assist affected employees with the expeditious processing of applications for benefits programs such as Medicaid, Nutritional Assistance Program, and Public Unemployment Assistance as soon as it becomes available," he said.

Aldan also said that he encourages everyone to start to review eligibility requirements and gather documents to apply for future program benefits.

"I pray every day that we remain COVID-19-free and that we continue to come together as one community to endure and face what will be some of our darkest days," he added. *(Chevy Alipio)*

WITH USE OF \$2.3M FOR CUC'S DEFERRMENT PROGRAM 'CUC restricted account only has over \$2M left'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

With the use of \$2.3 million for its deferral program to provide temporary financial relief for utility customers in these difficult times, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s restricted account is now down to just over \$2 million—a steep drop from the original \$12 million.

Even that \$2 million is potentially to be earmarked for emergency power supplier Aggreko and more materials for CUC's power plant, said CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho in a recent interview.

He pointed out that CUC has some emergency repairs on Middle Road that need to

be completed.

He said they also used over \$6 million from the restricted account for an emergency at the power plant. "We were very fortunate to be able to have that money at that time," said Camacho.

This, he said, underscored the importance of CUC having some sort of reserve funding to be able to address emergencies as a lot of their equipment are old and aging.

Camacho said they're trying to pursue new facilities and upgrades and that the Office of the Governor has been supportive with the projects to have a lot of concrete poles and underground system lines and concrete tanks



Camacho

and a variety of different things.

"Our system is hardened, but there's so much more to do. And the other islands also need a lot of the hardening," he said, referring to Tinian and Rota.

Last month, the CUC board of directors approved the management's request to allow it to tap \$2.3 million in a restricted account to provide temporary financial relief for CUC residential customers. CUC will use the \$2.3 million to maintain operations during the deferral period of six months. The CUC board also approved a temporary waiver for penalties, late fees, and disconnection period within

Torres reiterates request for creation of local National Guard

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently followed up on his request to the National Guard Bureau to establish a National Guard unit in the CNMI, especially as additional support is needed in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In an April 8, 2020, letter to Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, Torres noted the importance of having a National Guard unit that can assist local first responders and deployed federal personnel in effectively responding to this pandemic, as well as future natural disasters.

"Many units of the National Guard are being called upon to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and its territories. As demonstrated by those states and territories, having a National Guard that can go into action providing security and relief during this disaster is invaluable. Not only are other states and territories proving the value of having a National Guard, the situation in the CNMI proves it is a necessity," Torres said.

The governor added that health and public safety personnel and resources are being stretched to the limit in the CNMI.

"The federal government and military have rendered assistance, and we are grateful for it. However, all of their resources had to be brought in and that took time. In the future, we may not have that time. Having a local force, responsive to local authorities, that can immediately go into action providing security and relief in the aftermath of a disaster, whether it be a typhoon or a pandemic,

is a demonstrated need for the CNMI," he wrote.

Torres concluded his letter by emphasizing the value to the United States of having a National Guard in the CNMI.

"Having a local National Guard could aid the U.S. military in its local maintenance and training activities during peace-time. Even more, given the strategic importance of the Western Pacific, a local National Guard on hand during national emergencies could provide a ready security force

as well as perform other critical tasks for the military," he said.

Torres first submitted his request to the National Guard Bureau on Oct. 19, 2019. As a result of the governor's request, Lengyel visited Saipan last January and discussed the feasibility with Torres.

"We need the establishment of a National Guard unit in the CNMI in order to build local capacity to support disaster relief efforts and military mission assignments," Torres said. *(PR)*

the deferral period.

CUC's plan is that the \$2.3 million will later be returned to the restricted account. The original \$12 million was intended to buy a power engine to replace engine No. 8 at power plant in Lower Base.

Last November, the board approved the release of \$6 million from the restricted account. Part of the amount, \$1.5 million, was to be used to pay the 90-day contract with Aggreko for temporary power while CUC's generator engines are being overhauled and repaired. Some \$300,000 was to be used to

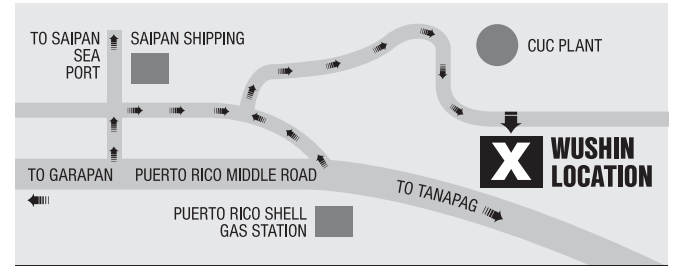
repair engine No. 6; \$2 million for overhaul of power engine no. 5; and \$2 million for the overhaul of power engine no. 7.

CUC's original plan was to replenish that \$6 million once the Federal Emergency Management Agency reimburses CUC, and that any funds used from that restricted account will be returned.

Last January, the CUC board also approved a 90-day extension worth \$1.3 million more to the original 90-day contract with Aggreko. The original contract was worth \$1.5 million.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-19-036, REV. 1

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have previously purchased CUC-IFB-19-036, no purchase is needed but will still have to register in order to receive the package.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-036-Rev.1, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 14, 2020.** Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on March 25, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
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DPS: No special program for drivers after 7pm

The CNMI Department of Public Safety has denied a rumor making its way through online platforms stating that DPS has a new program for drivers on the road after 7pm.

In a “Rumor Control” statement issued last Friday, DPS said that his

rumor is false.

“There are no programs or special sign-up sheets that DPS is offering for drivers who are utilizing the island’s roadways from 7pm through 6am the following morning,” the DPS statement said

It reminds the public that only first responders, medical workers, law enforcement officers, and private sector employees on duty within the curfew hours are the only ones allowed to be on the island’s roads during the curfew hours.

Any person going to or returning from admission at the hospital or completion of medical treatment such as hemodialysis is excused as well.

“Vehicle operators who violate this order will be subject to penalties provided under the law. The CNMI De-

partment of Public Safety would like to remind the public to only share official and accurate information and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from official sources.”

Curfew hours in the CNMI is from 7pm to 6am the next day. **(PR)**

Grab & Go to resume this week

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Child Nutrition Program meal distribution will resume this week following a brief hiatus.

The Public School System announced last Friday that the meal distribution will resume Thursday, April 16, from 9:30am to 11:30am. Parents, however, will no longer need

to bring their children to pick up the meals at the Grab & Go Meal Distribution program sites. Parents just need to bring some sort of student identification, like a student ID or report card, for each child to get a meal.

Like before, each child will receive a meal set that includes breakfast, lunch, and a snack.

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School distribution site is

temporarily shuttered so distribution for the San Roque Village will be at the Tanapag Middle School.

Aside from Tanapag Middle School, the other meal distribution sites are Garapan Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, Marianas High School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Chalan Kanoa Head Start, Tinian Elementary School, Sinapalo Elementary School,

and Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School.

According to a mother who was laid off at her job, it’s a huge blessing for her that PSS decided to continue the meal distribution. “I know that, with the situation, this might not be the best idea but I am making close to nothing right now. Aside from side jobs, I don’t know how else I am going to put food on the table for my kids. Thanks to PSS, I am no longer worried about what they will eat every day,” she said.

A high school student, who requested that she be referred to as Ann, said that she doesn’t like to admit it but the meal program is the only stable thing in all the chaos since COVID-19 reached the Marianas. “It was good to know there was one constant, and that was where I was going to get my next meal. It’s embarrassing that I’m dependent on the meal program but it takes the stress off my parents’ shoulders. I’m glad it’s been brought back,” Ann said.

US

From Page 1

cago and other cities across the Midwest braced for a potential surge in victims and moved to snuff out smoldering hot spots of contagion before they erupt.

With the New York area still deep in crisis, fear mounted over the spread of the scourge into the nation’s heartland.

Twenty-four residents of an Indiana nursing home hit by COVID-19

have died, while a nursing home in Iowa saw 14 deaths. Chicago’s Cook County has set up a temporary morgue that can take more than 2,000 bodies. And Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has been going around telling groups of people to “break it up.”

In Europe, countries used roadblocks, drones, helicopters, mounted patrols and the threat of fines to keep people from traveling over Easter weekend. With infections and deaths slowing in Italy, Spain and other places on the Continent,

governments took tentative steps toward loosening the weeks-long shutdowns.

Glorious weather across Europe posed an extra test of people’s discipline.

“Don’t do silly things,” said Domenico Arcuri, Italy’s special commissioner for the virus emergency. “Don’t go out, continue to behave responsibly as you have done until today, use your head and your sense of responsibility.”

The outbreak’s center of gravity has long since shifted from China

to Europe and the United States, which now has by far the largest number of confirmed cases—over a half-million—and a death toll higher than Italy’s count of nearly 19,500, according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University.

The death rate—the number of dead relative to the population—is

still far higher in Italy than in the United States, which has more than five times as many people. And worldwide, the true numbers of dead and infected are believed to be much higher because of testing shortages, different counting practices and concealment by some governments.

DEATH

From Page 1

According to an update from the Joint Information Center in Guam, the deceased was a 79-year-old woman who passed away at the Guam Memorial Hospital. The woman was seen at GMH last April 10, and had a medical history of diabetes, hypertension, and coronary artery disease and had no travel history.

“We mourn for everyone touched by this awful virus, and we send our deepest condolences to this woman’s family and friends. While no one can take away the pain felt by her loved ones, we can work to limit the damage it causes,” said Guam’s Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in the JIC update. “What we

face as an island isn’t easy. It’s painful and it is hard—but this virus will take even more from us if we aren’t committed to staying home and stopping the spread. In this Easter season, I pray that we all have the strength, courage, and wisdom to do what we must to prevent even more sadness.”

According to the JIC update, the Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 33 individuals for COVID-19 last April 11. Two tested positive through DPHSS, 31 tested negative, and one additional case has been confirmed through Diagnostic Laboratory Services.

The DPHSS overall count also includes cases of COVID-19 that have been clinically diagnosed, confirmed positive cases tested by the Naval Health Research Center in San Di-

ego, California, and confirmed positive cases through DLS.

As of late evening April 11, there are a total of 133 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Guam, with 58 recoveries and five deaths. All 70 remaining cases are in isolation.

COVID-19 on Saipan

As of 4pm, April 12, the CNMI’s statistics for COVID-19 remain the same as of April 8. The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is still waiting for the results of the nine pending COVID-19 tests.

To date, there are a total of 11 positive results in the CNMI and two deaths. A reliable source told *Saipan Tribune* that all positive cases remain in isolation at Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

KANOA

From Page 1

in contact with someone who tested positive. Additionally, those in isolation are being monitored by Commonwealth Health Center doctors and nurses, taking their temperature at least twice a day, and ensuring that the individuals are okay.

According to Muña, at the people in isolation are similar to an outpatient basis since they do not meet the criteria for admission, but they do meet the criteria for isolation and monitoring.

“The goal of CHCC is to eventually increase the level of care over there [Kanoa Resort], on what we provide,” said Muna. “Those are things in the works to convert [Kanoa Resort] as an alternate care site for CHCC.”

Kanoa Resort has around-the-clock health care from medical doctors and nursing staff. In addition to health care, Muña acknowledged that in order to have Kanoa Resort as an alternate care site, there needs to be a pharmacy service, laboratory service, and respiratory services as well.

According to Muña, the developing protocol for the alternate care site is being carried out by the chief medical officer and deputy chief medical officer. There will be more information of when Kanoa Resort will be used as an alternative site, but, as of now, it is being utilized for quarantine and isolation as well as providing medical services on an “outpatient basis.”

“We’re very grateful that they [frontliners] are helping out as much as possible to take care of these people [COVID-19 positive patients] at Kanoa Resort,” said Muña. She stressed that these people did not sign up to “face the fire” but to have the medical doctors and nursing staff, as well as non-clinical people, volun-

teers, defense, and the Department of Public Safety helping out is a great support.

The process of collecting specimen

According to Muña, if an individual goes to the emergency room at CHC, due to the limited supply of tests, the medical doctor will determine if the individual can get tested for COVID-19. Once the medical doctor does determine that the individual needs to get the test, the nursing staff will then collect the specimen that will be sent for testing.

If an individual does get admitted, then the Guam Public Health Laboratory will treat the specimen for testing a high priority, meaning that it will get tested as soon as possible. If a patient is not admitted right away, Guam’s Public Health Laboratory will look at it as less of a priority and it will get tested at a Diagnostic Laboratory Services, which is the laboratory service that serves the Pacific region.

When an individual is showing COVID-19 symptoms and is still awaiting the result of their test, they will be put on mandatory isolation at Kanoa Resort. At that point, CHCC will conduct a point-of-contact tracing. Muña said that, rather than wait for their test to come back positive, it’s better to start contact tracing once the individual with symptoms presents themselves at the emergency room at CHC.

Muña stated that there have been family members who have tested negative even if their loved ones are positive for COVID-19. How long you are with a person who has tested positive for the virus plays a huge role.

Besides Kanoa Resort, the other quarantine site is Pacific Islands Club Saipan and is usually where those who arrived from off-island are temporarily kept.

PSS

From Page 1

for a \$5-million loan.

In a letter to MPLT, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada asked MPLT to lend PSS \$5 million for a term of 90 days.

In a special board meeting two weeks ago, BOE members Phillip Mendiola-Long, Andrew Orsini, and Marylou Ada voted to send a letter in support of PSS’ request.

In Ada’s letter to MPLT chair Martin B. Ada dated March 27, he said that the impact of COVID-19 has crippled PSS from performing its duties. “PSS has been beset with financial difficulties in the past but the impact from the threat of COVID-19 to our school district has been immediate and outright. It crippled and im-

mediately prevented PSS to perform and render services and programs to all of our stakeholders on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota,” he said.

Ada said in his letter that BOE and PSS are willing to execute a memorandum of agreement with MPLT to ensure that PSS meets all of the terms of its 90-day loan proposal.

“With MPLT’s immediate granting of approval to this proposal, it will ensure and guarantee that PSS is able to move forward and re-start programs and services during this particularly challenging and difficult period,” Ada stated.

According to Ada’s letter, PSS’ loan will be “guaranteed” by the \$10 million it expects to receive through the federal Education Stabilization Fund under the COVID-19 economic stimulus aid.

Ada attached to his communica-

tion with MPLT the letters from the offices of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Ca. Sablan and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres informing PSS that it is one of the recipients of direct funding assistance from the \$2 trillion CARES Act.

PSS is guaranteed over \$10 million in financial aid under the federal law, but Ada said the process will take some time. “This is owing to the lengthy process and procedures of fund distribution, awards, and disbursements, among others,” he said.

PSS classes have been suspended for the remainder of school year 2019-2020, affecting over 10,000 public elementary, middle, and high school students at all of 20 campuses, including 10 Head Start and Early Head Start centers, and Early Intervention and Special Education programs.

CNMI eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

In addition to the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration has confirmed that the CNMI is also eligible for the Federal Unemployment Compensation

program.

Under the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the FPUC program provides eligible individuals \$600 per week in addition to the benefits authorized by the PUA program.

Generator stolen from San Vicente apartment

On Friday, April 10, 2020, at about 12:10pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a call reporting a stolen generator from an apartment building in the village of San Vicente. A patrol unit was dispatched to the scene.

At about 12:37pm, the patrol unit arrived at the scene and met with the caller, who stated that the apartment building's generator had been stolen from the main floor. The caller stated that they checked on the generator about a week

ago and everything was still in place and secured. When they checked on the generator that afternoon, it was already missing.

The generator was described as a 6500-watt, orange-and-black, Generac brand. If you know someone who has recently obtained a similar generator to what had been reported, do not hesitate to call 911. If you would like to remain anonymous call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. (PR)

Youth Conservation Corps internships available

This summer, American Memorial Park will once again host the Youth Conservation Corps program and will be accepting applications through April 30, 2020, by close of business.

The Youth Conservation Corps is a well-balanced work-learn-earn program that develops participants' understanding and appreciation of the nation's environment and heritage. YCC participants will engage in a wide variety of conservation and park operations activities that will teach them about our National Park and the National Park Service's mission to protect special places for all.

The park may hire up to four youths in the YCC program at the federal minimum wage. The program will run for up to eight weeks, from June 8, 2020, to July 31, 2020, with participants working 40 hours per week,

Monday through Friday. Enrollees must be at least 15 years of age by June 8, 2020, and no older than 18 years old on July 31, 2020. To apply, applicants must fill out an application and if not 18 years of age, have a parent's or guardian's signature. The randomly selected applicants will be contacted by program coordinator Theo K. Chargualaf. Participation will be dependent on available funding. Please be advised, due to the current situation with COVID-19, the program is not guaranteed to run.

To request an application, send an email to amme_maintenance@nps.gov. Once completed, applications can be scanned and emailed to the same email address. For questions about the YCC program, contact Chargualaf at (671) 477-7278 Ext. 1005 or email theo_chargualaf@nps.gov. (NPS)

Vicente 'Ben' Cabrera Attao, 67

Vicente "Ben" Cabrera Attao passed away last March 26, 2020, at Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene. He was 67.

According to an obituary published in *The Lewiston Tribune*, it said that Attao, who was born on July 19, 1952, on Saipan, graduated from Mount Carmel School, Class of 1971. After his



Attao

er Attao worked for Lewiston Grain Growers and completed his degree in general studies at Lewis-Clark State College. In 1986, Attao joined the National Park Service, working in maintenance with the Nez Perce National Historical Park team, where he worked until 2003 and transferred back to Saipan, to work with American Memorial Park.

In 2017, after 20 years of service with the National Park Service, Attao retired and moved back to his Idaho home and to be with wife, Liz, in Lapwai. (Details taken from *The Lewiston Tribune obituary*)

"The COVID-19 global pandemic has been hurting the global economy over the last several weeks, but here in the CNMI, our economy has been hurting since February," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Saturday. "This news that the CNMI and the U.S. territories are now eligible for the Federal Unemployment Compensation program is much needed for the many employees in our economy that have been terminated, furloughed, or have had their hours reduced."

"[CNMI Labor] Secretary [Vicky] Benavente and her hard-working team at Labor are in calls with USDOL every day to get additional confirmation on eligibility for our government employees. We remain optimistic that we will be able to take care of

our government and the many private sector employees who have been affected by no fault of their own. We ask the entire community to wait for official guidance from my office and CNMI DOL on these programs and to find out who is eligible. We are working around the clock for everyone on this important assistance," Torres added.

Benavente was informed Saturday of the CNMI's eligibility for FPUC by USDOL ETA Steve Malliaras, from the San Francisco Regional Office. "The notification from USDOL is one of the clarifications that we requested in order to move forward with the PUA program," said Benavente. "There are still a few things we are coordinating with the U.S. Department of

Labor, and we are grateful for their continued technical assistance."

As soon as the eligibility requirements, benefits, and other information applicable to the CNMI is provided by USDOL, CNMI DOL will be the primary agency in announcing the program and will specify the date, time, location, telephone numbers, and email addresses for the submission of a PUA and/or FPUC application.

CNMI DOL is recommending that individuals who are planning to apply for the PUA/FPUC program should prepare their documents ahead of time. The documents include a certification letter from their employer, a valid ID with photo, passport, copies of the latest paycheck stubs, and Social

Security number.

The certification letter must state the employee's name, title, wages, and schedule of the regular working hours, and the number of reduced hours, before the layoff or termination.

The CNMI DOL offices, like most of the government offices on Capital Hill, have been closed as part of the COVID-19 response. These offices will remain closed until further notice on the PUA application.

Residents are advised to continue following updates regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program through press releases and announcements from the CNMI Office of the Governor. (PR)



E-LAND DONATION

Still practicing social distancing, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios receive on behalf of the CNMI government the E-Land Group donation of canned goods from Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer Brian Shin, Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh, and other E-Land Group and CNMI government officials last Thursday at the front of the Coral Ocean Point hotel-resort. The three sister hotels under the E-Land Group and its local holding company, Micronesia Resort Inc., donated 445 aid packages and other grocery items for distribution to families through the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program. KRIZEL TUAZON

NMHC: Utility checks ready for pick-up tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. would like to inform the Section 8 Multi-family program (Mihaville and Koblerville) that the utility checks will be ready for pick-up on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, from 9am to 1pm.

In addition, we would like to inform Section 8 voucher pro-

gram clients that the third distribution of the utility checks will be ready for pick-up on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, from 9am to 1pm. The third distribution is for clients that had not picked up their checks last week Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

For all clients making payments, we will be open on

Tuesday, April 14, 2020, from 9am to 1pm.

We would like to advise all our clients that we will be enforcing the social distancing of 6 feet per person. Our staff will be monitoring and directing all clients in picking up their checks. Clients are required to use their masks when entering

the building.

For submission of documents or payments after 1pm on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, you may submit at the drop box located in front of the NMHC building.

For updates visit the NMHC Facebook page or email nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. (PR)



NMC-CREES DONATION TO NAP

Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macarinas, left, receives a donation of about 100 lbs of tomatoes from Dr. Virendra M. Verma, program leader and specialist (horticulture/crop) of the Agricultural Program of the Northern Marianas College, Cooperative Research, Extension & Education Services. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Medical workers, first responders assured of PPEs

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the community's cooperation, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is positive that the CNMI will be able to beat the COVID-19 threat on the islands.

"We're [going to] beat this, but we just need everybody's patience and cooperation," the governor said in an interview.

And until everyone "work together in addressing this virus together," it could take a long time before the community lives

without the threat of COVID-19 on the islands, he added.

The CNMI currently has 11 positive cases, with two deaths.

"It is important for all of us to learn from what's going on around the world," Torres said, adding that neighboring Guam is struggling, and even states like New York is not having enough personal protective equipment for its nurses and doctors.

"If we don't help each other, we're no different than anybody else," Torres said.

To ensure the CNMI would be able to avoid such a struggle, the COVID-19 Task Force has ordered equipment and supplies, including test kits, from weeks ago, which the government is hoping to receive by next week, on top of the shipments that have been coming in since Saturday.

"We've ordered close to 500,000 masks. We've ordered close to 400,000 gowns for our doctors and nurses and first responders, [and] we've

already ordered about 50,000 test kits," he said.

The hardest part of the procurement process is the shipping and getting the orders into the islands, Torres said.

South Korea also sent Federal Drug Administration-approved test kits to the CNMI, according to the governor.

"We have enough supplies for our doctors and nurses, as well as our first responders. A chartered flight will be coming in, one [last] Saturday and then [last] Sunday. This

will definitely sustain us for a good month, but we continue to move forward in making sure that our orders come in," he said.

He stressed the need to take care of the CNMI's frontlin-

ers: its nurses, doctors, and first responders. "We are preparing everything we can to make sure that they are taken care of...then they are able to, in turn, take care of us, our community," Torres said.

Unidentified object likely connected to scheduled test launch from China

In concert with federal partners, the Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense and the Mariana Regional Fusion Center identified

» No threat to the Marianas

the Palapa N1 communications satellite, also known as Nusantara Satu 2, from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in China on April 9 at 7:40am EDT.

last Thursday a seemingly bright fire or object falling from the sky over the Marianas to be likely connected to a scheduled satellite test launch from China.

Open sources report that a Chinese Long March 3B rocket was scheduled to launch

This scheduled commercial space launch occurred around 9:40pm ChST and corresponds with the timing of the widely circulated videos of the fiery object in the sky.

There was no direct threat assessed to the Marianas from the launch. (PR)

Beach water quality monitoring to resume

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality usually analyzes water samples collected from 85 beaches and storm drainages on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Managaha islands as part of a regularly scheduled sampling program. These samples are analyzed to determine if they contain excessive concentration of fecal indicator bacteria and meet CNMI Water Quality Standards.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in closure of public beaches and suspension of interisland flights, regular water quality sampling of these sites was temporarily suspended on March 30.

Due to the subsequent reopening of beaches for individual use for purposes of exercise and wellness, both physical

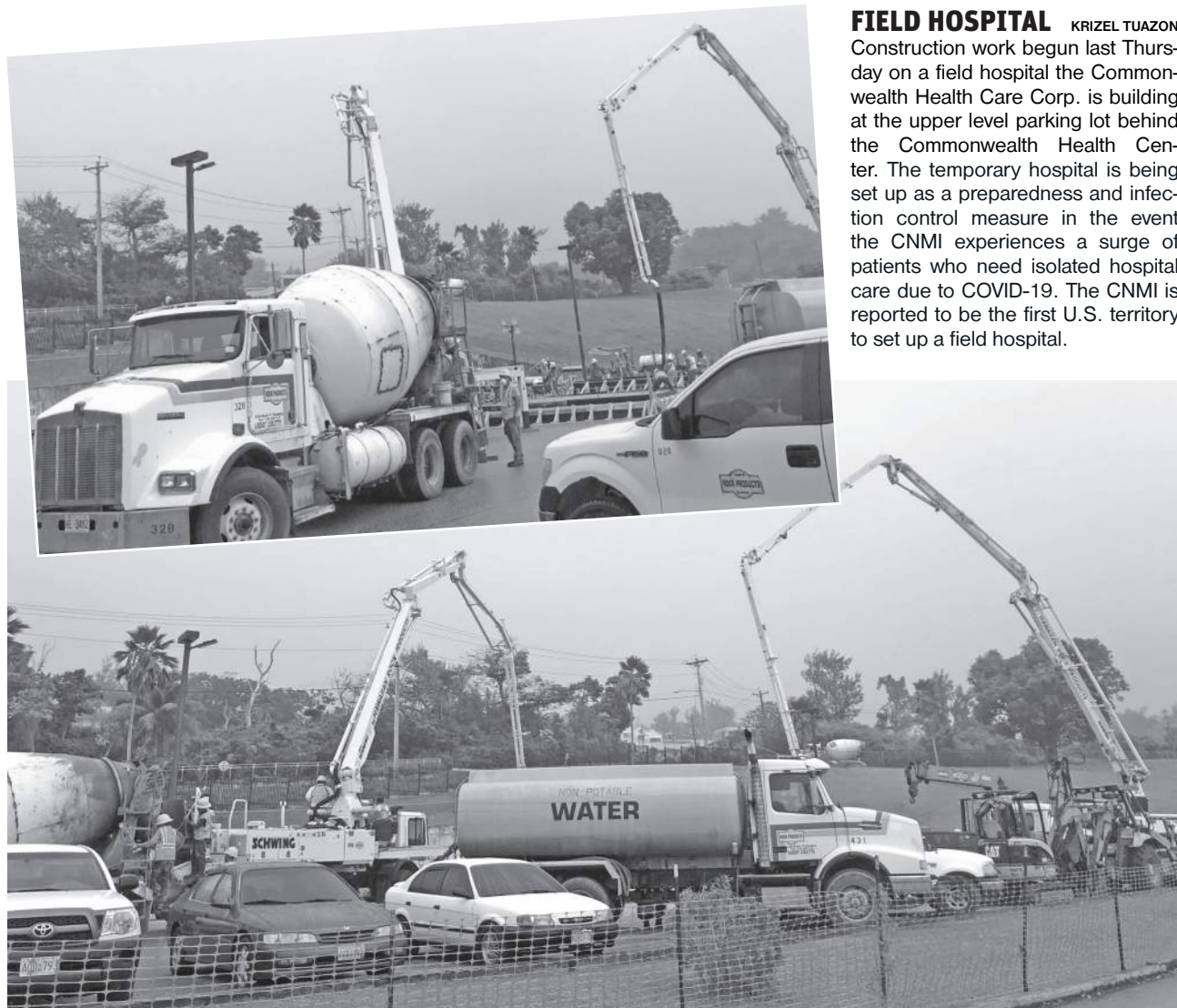
and mental, and shoreline subsistence fishing such as *taläya* and rod and reel, as well as the limited availability of interisland cargo flights, BECQ will resume water sampling at locations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota the week of April 13.

The reports will be available at www.deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secID=52. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, please send an email to waterqualityreport@becq.gov.mp.

BECQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact Larry Maurin at 286-1054 with any questions concerning this matter. (PR)

FIELD HOSPITAL KRIZEL TUAZON

Construction work begun last Thursday on a field hospital the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is building at the upper level parking lot behind the Commonwealth Health Center. The temporary hospital is being set up as a preparedness and infection control measure in the event the CNMI experiences a surge of patients who need isolated hospital care due to COVID-19. The CNMI is reported to be the first U.S. territory to set up a field hospital.



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 13, 1999

CNMI, Northwest may deal

CNMI officials strongly indicated yesterday that they would likely approve a proposal by the Northwest Airlines to slash by almost 50% the landing fees and passenger facility charges in exchange for increased flights that is expected to pump in \$23 million in fresh money into the local economy. Executives of the airline company met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, along with ports authority board chairman Roman S. Palacios and Aviation Task Force chairman JM Guerrero, to submit a package of proposals designed to give a lift to the slumping tourism industry. Local officials are upbeat on the Northwest proposal after Continental Airlines, the region's main air carrier, dropped the Osaka-Saipan route due to declining passenger haul.

HANMI: Tax breaks, not hikes, needed

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands has asked legislative leaders to provide incentives to expansion and renovation projects of existing hotel establishments. At the same time, the association has opposed any attempt to further increase the room occupancy tax or additional taxes directed at the hotel industry. Ac-

cording to Ron Sablan, president of the association, such tax incentive would encourage more hotels to carry out expansion projects amid the slump on the island's tourism economy. Implementation of a General Excise Tax exemption for construction costs for new projects or renovation of establishments would help stimulate investment and generate the needed construction activity.

April 13, 2001

Health chief sued for \$3.6M

The children of a deceased woman yesterday filed a \$3.6 million-civil action suit against Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, holding the public official personally liable on allegations of neglect. The late Ana Deleon Guerrero Cepeda's brood of eight, who each filed uniform complaints against the Department of Public Health, have apparently taken to heart the hospital's alleged failure to preserve the remains of their dead mother, which resulted in the body's desecration. The siblings through counsel G. Anthony Long are suing Mr. Villagomez along with five other unidentified Commonwealth Health Center staff for damages amid allegations of breach of contract.

NMI inflation rate below 5%

The CNMI continues to enjoy a relatively low inflation rate confined within the annual average of below five percent despite dramatic slowdown in economic activities brought about by the trickling number of international visitors into the islands since 1998. During the period covering the years 1991 to 1997, the commonwealth registered an annual inflation rate average of

4.98 percent, according to the Department of Commerce. While the closure of close to 2,000 business establishments since 1998 posed threats of higher consumer prices, the CNMI economy managed to prevent dramatic increased in commodity prices, allowing the inflation rate to stand still at below five percent.

April 13, 2005

PIC honors employees

Pacific Islands Club Saipan honors its outstanding employees for April and congratulates them for their exceptional efforts and dedication to the PIC team. Rita Duenas was awarded April's Front of the House Employee of the Month. She has been with PIC since June 1998 as a waitress. "Duenas is a superb and very dependable part of the F&B team. She can be counted on to complete her day-to-day tasks consistently up to and beyond standard," the hotel resort said in a statement.

Water Task Force gets \$986K grant

The CNMI Water Task Force received notice from the Department of the Interior yesterday that the U.S. Congress has awarded the CNMI an additional \$986,107 grant for water system rehabilitation projects. This grant for FY 2005 comes on top of a \$2 million supplement to the FY 2004 CIP project money from the U.S. Congress. Don Smith, program manager for the task force, said the additional funds would be put to good use. "We welcome the awarding of this grant," Smith said, "because it will help us realize our initial goal of providing 24-hour water service to every home and business on Saipan."

Video series on Guam ROTC alumni begins today

A video series documenting the military careers and successes of Reserve Officers Training Corps alumni from the University of Guam will begin at 7pm today and continue at the same time every night through Saturday, April 25. The videos are the projects of senior cadets in the University of Guam ROTC program who were tasked with interviewing Army officers who graduated from UOG's ROTC program.

The 13 episodes of "Alumni: The Legacy Series" document each officer's career, some spanning 40 years. Specific highlights include combat deployments, leadership decision-making processes, and recommendations for personal and professional development.

The UOG ROTC alumni who will be featured include:

■ April 13: Retired Capt. Mariano Aquino (interviewed by Cadet Ryan Guzman)

■ April 14: Col. Ronnie Delfin (interviewed by Cadet Vicente Bamba)

■ April 15: Capt. Analyn Gagarin (interviewed by Cadet Shawn Balinas)

■ April 16: Lt. Col. John Javellana (interviewed by Cadet Brendan Santos)

■ April 17: Retired Lt. Col. Mark Calvo (interviewed by Lt. Col. Thomas Anderson)

■ April 18: Lt. Col. Romeo Delfin (interviewed by Cadet Alex Aguero)

■ April 19: Capt. Kurt Diaz (interviewed by Cadet Mike Muna)

■ April 20: Major Michelle Parel (interviewed by Cadet Lucand Camacho)

■ April 21: Lt. Col. Rodel Babasa (interviewed by Cadet Chris San Miguel)

■ April 22: Retired Col. Joseph Cepeda (interviewed by Cadet Celine Garcia)

■ April 23: Retired Lt. Col. David Okada (interviewed by Cadet Christelyn Lopez)

■ April 24: Capt. Sharmane Rodriguez (interviewed by Cadet Kortney Camacho)

■ April 25: Col. Scott White (interviewed by Cadet Jeanie Nguyen)

To view the video series, go to www.facebook.com/UoGROTC each night at 7pm.

UOG's ROTC program was established in October 1979 and is celebrating 40 years of producing dynamic leaders for Guam, the Pacific, and the United States of America. (UOG)

UOG students will benefit from CARES Act funds

The University of Guam will receive \$4.5 million in grant funding from the CARES Act, the recently enacted law that allocates funding to help support businesses and individuals suffering from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

About \$2.3 million will be reserved for UOG students to help cover expenses related to the disruption of their education due to the coronavirus. Details on the program and how funds will be allocated and disbursed will be released soon.

"The funds from the CARES Act will ensure our students receive much-needed financial support to pursue their education," said UOG president W. Thomas Krise. "Our students will be able to count on some financial respite

despite so many unknowns in our current situation. We are working on making funds available as soon as possible."

The UOG campus has been closed since late March, and all classes have transitioned online for the remainder of

the semester.

In preparation for the distribution of funds, students are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@triton.uog.edu to set up direct deposit and to update their contact information. (UOG)

UOG Telethon for COVID-19 relief raises \$43,000

The University of Guam raised \$43,000 from 327 donors last April 8 through a telethon fundraiser to support emergency medical personnel responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The total more than doubled the original goal of \$20,000. The fundraising event streamed live for two hours on the university's Facebook page and had been accepting donations in the weeks prior.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the outcome," UOG president Thomas W. Krise said. "It was very uplifting to see our community come together against this common enemy, and these generous donations will go a long way in supplying our frontline workers with critically needed supplies."

The money raised will go directly toward the purchase of meals, face masks

and shields, hand sanitizer, gloves, and other equipment and supplies for health care workers in Guam.

"Everyone really got into the spirit of the telethon," said Norman Analista, director of development and alumni affairs and co-host of the event. "We had callers challenging their teammates, colleagues, and even business competitors to match their donations. That's the kind of positive energy and sense of community we were hoping to create during this time."

The telethon featured content experts from the UOG community sharing tips to help residents weather the coronavirus public health emergency. The topics included handling stress and anxiety, cooking healthy meals at home and grocery shopping on a budget, home fitness activities, home gar-



Norman Analista, director of Development and Alumni Affairs at UOG, directs viewers to the numbers to call to make a donation during the University of Guam Live Stream Telethon for COVID relief on April 8.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



Sharleen Santos-Bamba, associate dean of the UOG College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, co-hosts the University of Guam Live Stream Telethon for COVID relief on April 8 from the UOG campus.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

dening, and others.

"In times of uncertainty like this, it's really important for all of us to have answers, a

sense of security, and a sense of relief," Krise said. "And knowledge is power, so the content of our videos aimed to provide valuable insight for all of the issues people are having to deal with and how we can make the best of this whole experience."

The event also included surprise musical performances by UOG students and alumni, including the UOG Latte Tones, Joe Guam, and Coco and the Way Cool Heroes.

The educational video segments and the recording of the telethon can still be viewed on the university's Facebook page: facebook.com/UniversityofGuam.

The event was sponsored by IT&E, KUAM Careforce, and LSG Sky Chefs with program sponsorship from Docomo Pacific, the *Guam Daily Post*, and Blue Pacific Realty. (UOG)



From left, Bannuar Quiaoit, Daniel Bernardo, Ryan Ganon, registered nurses at Guam Memorial Hospital, and alumni of the UOG nursing program, thank the community for their support via a video message during the telethon.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



The University of Guam Latte Tones choral group sings Nat King Cole's *Smile*, each via video call from their own homes, as a surprise performance of the University of Guam Live Stream Telethon for COVID relief on April 8.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Upgrade infrastructure: Now is the time for Congress to approve a plan

For the past three years, Americans have heard repeatedly about the need for an ambitious federal program to upgrade the nation's infrastructure. Bridges, roads, locks, airports and other facilities are in dire need of maintenance. The current health crisis has added a new dimension to the issue, since an infrastructure program could provide a much-needed stimulus to an economy that is reeling.

The time for action is now. This type of program puts large numbers of people to work, so it will mitigate a rapidly increasing unemployment rate in the nation. Also, heading into the fall election, both the president and members of Congress can finally make good on past promises regarding infrastructure.

Since 2017, the debate has widened, so now citizens are demanding that an infrastructure bill include water systems, brownfields, electric grids and rural broadband. Some climate change concerns can be addressed.

Nearly a year ago, the White House and Democratic leaders agreed on the broad outlines of a plan. But it didn't have the full support of the Senate, and it never moved forward.

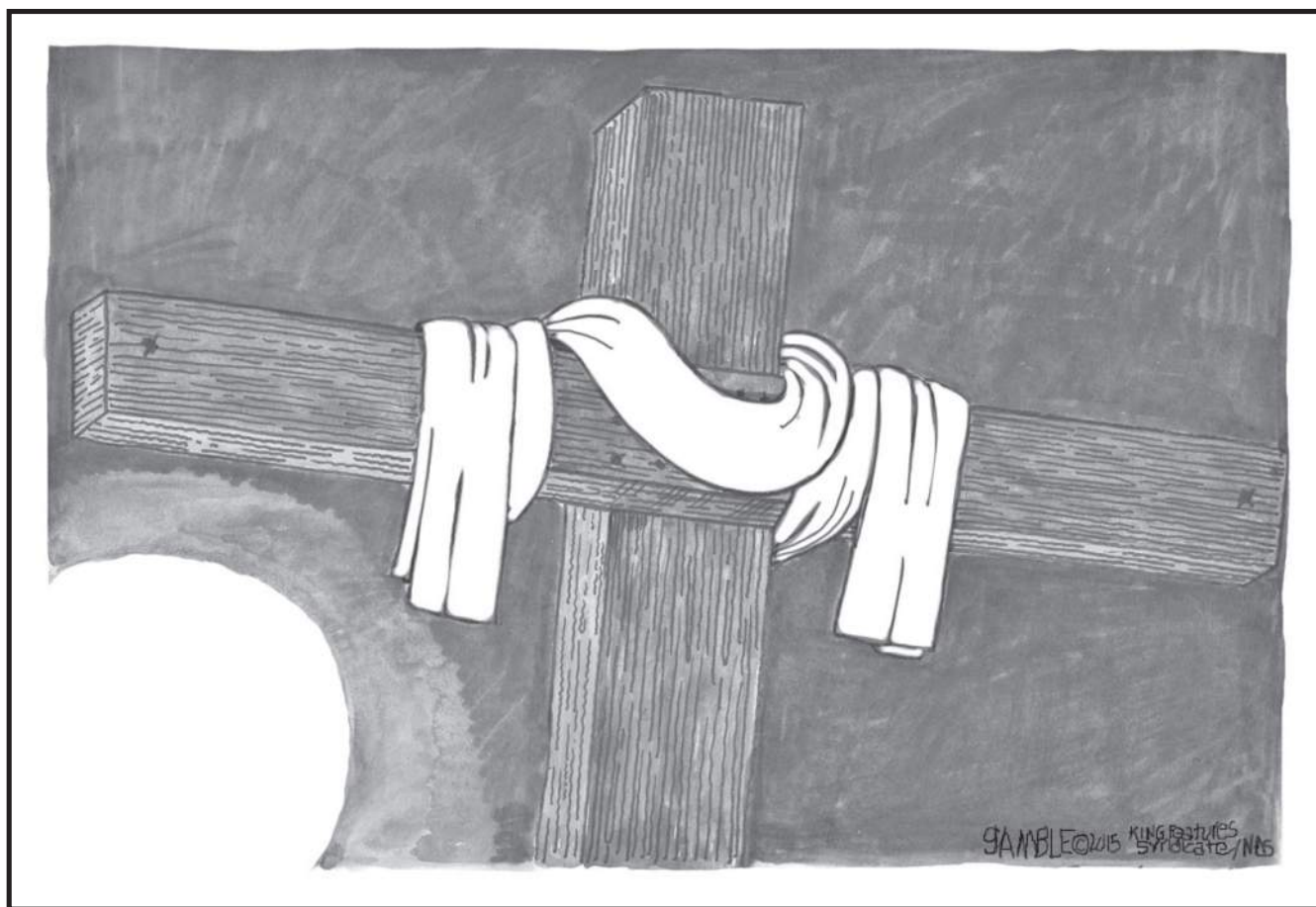
Now that Congress has approved a huge emergency relief bill in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he would move slowly on any additional relief bill, including infrastructure.

McConnell is right to be asking how to pay for this. The huge relief bill has already increased the federal debt in an unprecedented way, and he wants to know where additional money is coming from.

An infrastructure bill should move forward, as long as it includes the raising of new revenue. Right now the average price of gasoline across the nation is the lowest it has been since 1993. So a temporary increase in the federal gas tax is a reasonable and not too painful way to generate revenue for this purpose. In 2015, a House member, Rep. Tom Rice, R-S.C., proposed a 10-cent-per-gallon increase over five years to pay for transportation projects. His idea merits another look.

If members of Congress choose campaigning for reelection over action on infrastructure, the nation will be the loser.

(c) 2020 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Pandemics come and go but medical masks are eternal

Medical masks are unusual artifacts.

Throughout history and across the globe, most masks have served to disguise, cloak or alter identity, whether in the special circumstances of ritual and theater, the perpetuation of crimes or the veiling of women. Medical masks, by contrast, are meant not to hide but to protect. They maintain the wearer's identity while encouraging solidarity rather than segregation.

Here is a brief history of their evolution.

17TH-CENTURY EUROPE

Plague doctors adopt a costume that includes a leather headdress with a long, pointed beak filled with perfumes and aromatics that masked bad odors and were believed to combat contagion carried by bad air. Stylized versions of the costume became popular in stage productions and carnival celebrations.

19TH CENTURY

Fashionable women wear lacy veils to protect against dust, particularly from the disruptions of Georges-Eugene Haussmann's remaking of Paris. As germ theory spreads, the fashion takes on a medical aura when researchers using microscopes find bacteria on dust particles.

In an 1878 article printed in the Hospital Gazette and in Scientific American, A.J. Jessup, a Westtown, N.Y., physician, recommends cotton masks to limit contagion during epidemics:

"Thus we see that as quarantine and disinfection will certainly spread of contagion from patient to patient, may we not confidently hope, by preventing the entrance of germs into the lungs and blood, by a properly constructed filtering mask to yet witness the spectacle of a population walking about the streets of a cholera infested city, without fear of its infection however deadly. As a properly made cotton filter worn over the mouth and nose must shut out all atmospheric germs of the ordinary putrefactive kind. We may confidently assured that those of disease will be equally excluded."

He cites his experiments with test tubes with and without cot-

By **VIRGINIA POSTREL**
Bloomberg News

Virginia Postrel is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. She was the editor of Reason magazine and a columnist for the Wall Street Journal, the Atlantic, The New York Times and Forbes. Her next book, The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World, will be published in November.



ton stoppers. His idea does not catch on.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Although the first study advocating the use of masks during surgery is published in 1897, they are rare at the turn of the century.

In 1905, Chicago physician Alice Hamilton publishes an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, reporting on experiments measuring the amount of streptococci bacteria expelled when scarlet fever patients cough or cry. She also measures the strep bacteria from healthy doctors and nurses when they talk or cough, leading her to recommend masks during surgery.

"I was told by a student in a large medical college

in Chicago," she writes, "that he had often noticed at the clinics of a certain surgeon that, when the light was from a certain direction, he could see, from his seat in the amphitheater, a continuous spray of saliva coming from the mouth of the surgeon while he discoursed to the class and conducted his operation. Obviously, protection of the mouth, of some sort as to catch and impression the droplets of sputum, should be a routine precaution for surgeons and for surgical nurses during operations."

In 1910, an epidemic of pneumonic plague strikes Manchuria. Appointed by the Chinese court to head anti-plague efforts, the

See PANDEMICS on Next Page



A man wears a mask while walking past a sign posted on a business in San Francisco, Saturday, April 11, 2020.

AP

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Coronavirus is going to create the mother of all housing crises if we don't bail out renters soon

By **KERRY CAVANAUGH**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Nearly one in three renters in the U.S. failed to pay their April rent at the beginning of the month, a landlord industry group warned Wednesday.

That's a big increase in missed payments, compared with even one month before. In March, 81% of households paid the rent within the first days of the month. By April, on-time payments dropped to 69% of households.

It's not really surprising that so many tenants couldn't make the rent this month, considering that 16.6 million people—roughly one in 10 workers—have filed for unemployment in the last three weeks.

But it's still shocking to see how quickly so many renters sank into financial distress. It's another reminder that too many people live paycheck to paycheck, and teeter on the edge of losing their home even in normal times.

California and other states have halted evictions during the coronavirus emergency. That will keep people housed during the pandemic. When the cash payments of \$1,200 or more per family and the extra unemployment benefits in the federal rescue package begin to arrive, that will help some tenants cover their rent. Homeowners are getting a hand too; Congress and federal regulators have told mortgage lenders to let borrowers delay mortgage payments without penalty if they're affected by the pandemic.

Still, there are many people who will lose income during the social distancing driven shutdowns and the recession they are causing. No state has yet figured out what to do when the emergency is over and how cash-strapped renters will manage when all that delayed rent comes due.

That's a huge problem that could set off a chain reaction

PANDEMICS

From Page 8

Penang-born, Cambridge-educated physician Wu Lien-Teh (Wu Liande) argues that the disease is transmitted through airborne contact. To prevent its spread, he develops masks to be worn by medical personnel and the general public.

During the 1918 global flu epidemic, medical personnel routinely adopt masks to protect themselves, and many cities require them in public. In Seattle, where streetcars require all riders to have masks, the local Red Cross enlists 120 workers to turn out 260,000 masks in three days.

In the 1920s, masks are standard in operating rooms. Over the next century, medical researchers continue to experiment with designs and materials.

POST-WORLD WAR II

Choking air pollution, particularly in London, leads Britons to adopt "smog masks."

As advanced economies clean up their pollution, smog—and smog masks—move to India, China and other developing countries.

In January 2010, a month before his death from suicide, fashion designer Alexander McQueen shows a menswear collection titled "An bailitheoir cnamh," ("the bone collector" in Gaelic) that features face masks and balaclavas.

While McQueen's work was artistic and conceptual, designers targeting the Chinese market increasingly include masks sold as fashionable accessories alongside bags and jewelry. These models are from designer Masha Ma's autumn/winter 2015 collection, in March 2014, and Xiong Ying's Heaven Gaia autumn/winter 2019-20 show in March 2019.

In 2018, singer Ariana Grande includes face masks in the merchandise lineup backing her "Sweetener" album. The pop star continues to roll out limited-edition masks. Currently featured: "Santa Tell Me" and "Christmas and Chill."

As the coronavirus sweeps the globe, sewing face masks and 3D printing surgical shields becomes the 21st-century version of rolling bandages and knitting socks for the troops.

of distress.

Tenants who can't pay their rent debt will face eviction, which can damage their credit and make it more difficult to rent another home. Many will likely have a hard time finding stable housing they can afford. California had a homelessness crisis before the pandemic. If evictions skyrocket after the emergency has passed, that will only add to the misery.

To avoid the kind of suffering and economic devastation that played out after the last recession, struggling renters will need a bailout. They will need some kind of rental assistance now to help avoid building up a debt that they can't pay. Or they'll need some kind of rent debt forgiveness down the road.

A growing number of housing advocates and local elected officials are calling on governors in California, New York, Washington and other states to use their emergency powers to cancel rent and put a moratorium on landlords' mortgage payments during the coronavirus emergency. It looks like no governor has yet taken up the call to action, which is understandable because there are all kinds of complexities and ramifications that come from canceling rent.

One of the biggest questions is who should pay the cost of the rescue.

Landlords? No. That's not fair. There are lots of landlords who are small business owners and rely on rent payments for their income or their retirement. We want landlords to stay in business. They provide an essential service: a roof over one's head.

Besides, they've got problems of their own. Denied much-needed rent payments during the emergency, they risk foreclosure if their lenders don't give them the option to delay mortgage payments. They face other penalties too if they can't pay their property taxes or properly maintain their buildings. And they need to pay the employees who manage the day-to-day operations of properties.

Worse, the financial toll caused by lost rental income could prompt landlords to sell their properties in droves, which could trigger a real estate market crash. Or it could also hasten the ongoing shift from mom-and-pop landlords to investment firms. Advocates say that shift, which accelerated after the last recession, has already resulted in the loss of older,

more affordable apartments as investors buy up properties to remodel and raise the rents.

Well, then, how about making mortgage lenders provide a cushion? Maybe. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are offering landlords forbearance if they do not evict tenants who can't pay the rent during the coronavirus emergency. Landlords without government-backed loans don't automatically get that relief, so a housing industry group is lobbying Congress to require forbearance for all multifamily mortgages. It's somewhat easier for the banks that make mortgage loans to abide delayed payments. The lenders will eventually get most of their money when the loans are paid off.

How about sticking Wall Street and big investors with the bill? That's what some tenant groups have advocated. They want large corporate owners of rental housing and big banks that were bailed out after the last financial crisis to eat some or all of the cost of rent forgiveness. Yet some experts warn that could create problems, too. Lenders typically sell mortgages to the financial industry, which then bundles them into securities and resells them to investors. The buyers often are pension funds and insurance companies. When landlords default on the mortgages, that decreases the value of the bonds and, ultimately, the public employee pension funds that invested in them. So taxpayers have an interest in making sure Wall Street gets paid too.

Ultimately, the federal government is going to have to provide the policy direction and a lot more money to keep tenants housed, keep landlords whole and to stabilize the real estate market. The simplest solution would be for Congress to create an emergency coronavirus housing voucher to help struggling tenants cover the rent. Or perhaps Congress could direct mortgage companies to offer forbearance for, say, three to six months, with the federal government picking up the incremental costs associated with delayed payments.

There's simply too much at stake for Congress and the Trump administration to be passive observers of any eviction tidal wave. They have a moral obligation to save the U.S. from another housing crisis.

Kerry Cavanaugh is an editorial writer for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lessons that we've hopefully learned

I've been self-quarantined here in my apartment, except for the occasional trip to the grocery store, for some time over two weeks. At first it was difficult. Not the actual alone part, but the idea that I could not come and go as I pleased. In fact, I became seriously depressed and shut myself off completely for about five days. When I started to recover from that little episode, I started thinking, asking myself what can I do to improve myself during this time. This led to expanding my thinking as to what will the Commonwealth learn to avoid situations and issues like this in the future.

I'm thinking in terms of taking care of our health. We often talk about our island paradise in terms of water sports and activities, beaches, sun and fun. But heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and other major health issues are rampant in our communities. We also have a large senior community. These are the folks, those with underlying medical issues and seniors, that are allegedly affected the most by COVID-19. After this is over, will we encourage our man'amko to get out and be more physically active? Will we encourage our children to get out of the house and away from their video games and computers, to run and play outdoors?

Beyond our physical health, I'm wondering if we learned anything about government. I read that the governor has given instructions to lay off and furlough government employees. The governor, through OPM director Isidro K. Seman, told depart-

ment heads that they "...must determine which functions of your organization can be eliminated or combined...and the minimum number of staff that must be retained to effect the retained functions in the most cost-efficient manner." Shouldn't that be the way the government works anyway? I think that is a lesson that should be learned.

While I'm on the subject of "reduction in force," I want to know why we need a bicameral Legislature of 29 legislators to represent a population of 50,000 to 55,000? Perhaps we should apply that same layoff or furlough concept to the Legislature. Another lesson?

I also wonder if we learn the lesson about "putting all of our eggs in one basket?" When the COVID-19 world crisis has ended, communities that rely only on tourism will continue to suffer economic hard times. Those countries that supply our tourists will have to recover their own economies before tourists again take to foreign destinations. Perhaps it's time to diversify?






Meanwhile, all of these glass and concrete structures that have popped up all over Saipan, in anticipation of great economic good times, will remain empty and become eyesores for a good many years to come. This is a lesson that repeats itself over and over again that we never seem to learn. I came here in 1986 to beautiful jungles and open beaches. It's now 2020. The jungles are gone and we are now left with a bunch of empty and/or unused buildings that are nothing more than eyesores. Maybe we could invest in our environment and ecology?

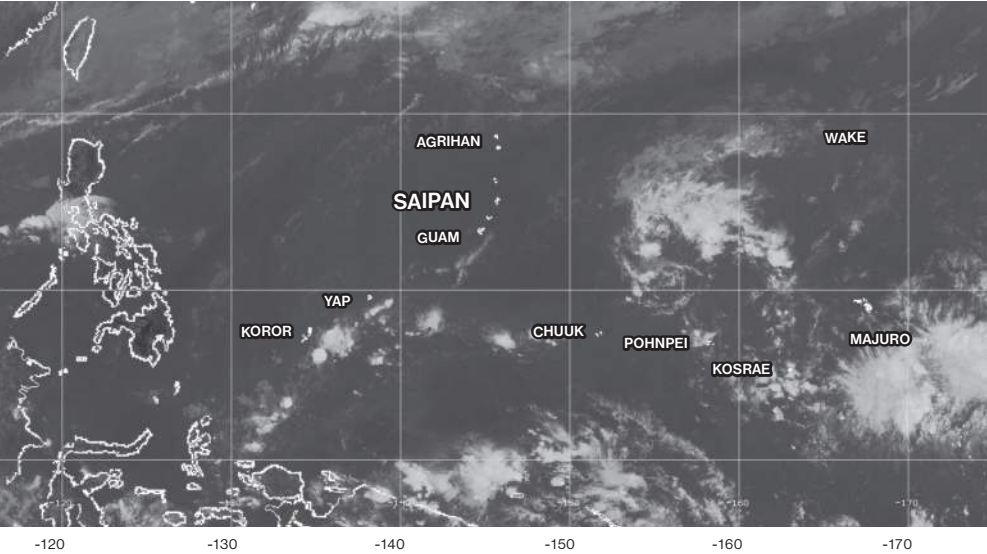
Or will we do what we always do after a crisis and say, "we dodged that bullet" and go back to the status quo?

John Davis

*Finasisu Terraces,
Fina Sisu, Saipan*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	77°	87°	76°	87°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:11 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered clouds across the area with a few showers, mostly south and southeast of Guam. A nearly stationary trade-wind disturbance is producing showers and a few thunderstorms well to the east near 155E. Buoys and altimetry show seas of 3 to 5 feet across the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:23 AM	11:49 PM
Tuesday	-	11:19 AM	-
Wednesday	12:44 AM	12:14 PM	-
Thursday	1:34 AM	1:07 PM	-
Friday	2:19 AM	1:59 PM	-

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AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 55°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	81° / 52°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 66°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 71°	
London	Partly Cloudy	55° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	73° / 57°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	90° / 74°	
New York	Rain	69° / 48°	
Osaka	Showers	61° / 46°	
Paris	Showers	64° / 46°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 48°	
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	81° / 52°	
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 48°	
Seoul	Sunny	66° / 39°	
Tokyo	Showers	59° / 45°	
Washington, DC	Rain	76° / 48°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.83	
5:58 AM	LOW TIDE	1.19	
10:41 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.77	
6:15 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.12	

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 10, 2020



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 10, 2020



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- Cashier & Customer Service**
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Tel: (670) 664-4282
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or via phone by calling toll free 1-(855)-729-2282



Department of Public Works

- Solid Waste Management Division**
 - Lower Base Transfer Station &**
Open all week except Wednesday
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7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2745
 - Morpi Landfill**
Open all week except Wednesday
(Closed Good Friday)
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Tel: (670) 322-2761



Department of Finance

- Division of Revenue & Taxation**
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Office of the Attorney General

- Civil & Criminal Divisions**
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Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600



Division of Customs Services

- Airport:** OPEN DAILY
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- Seaport:** Monday - Friday
Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Chalan Kanoa Post Office:**
Monday - Friday: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday: 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM




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- Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 234-6503



CNMI State Medicaid Agency

Eligibility staff are available to answer calls on Tuesday - Thursday
from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
Accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office.
Medicaid application & renewal/redetermination forms must be original.
Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at:
www.medicaid.cnmi.mp



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
Tel: (670) 287-1475
- Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call**
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 287-2781 / 287-1773
Tinian: (670) 287-3268
Rota: (670) 287-2553
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**
For inquiries regarding parent eligibility requirements for CCDF Program:
Tel: (670) 783-8571 / (670) 783-8572
Email: dccajguerrero@gmail.com / ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com
- Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC)**
For Recovery Arts Grant Application Submissions.
Grant Guidelines are available at <http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org>
Tel.: (670) 287-4585
Email: parkeryobei@gmail.com
- Historic Preservation Office (HPO)**
For Processing of Federal 106 Consultations Call
Tel: (670) 789-1986
Email: rchong.cnmihipo@gmail.com

- Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)**
Benefit Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Application Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Application Submission:
Anytime via Drop-Box

Application Inquiries:
Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802

To download the NAP application and other forms go to dcca.gov.mp
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Business

TO FRONTLINERS:

'The community appreciates work you do'

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrera@saipan.com
CORRESPONDENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has got the world on a standstill. The CNMI has been under executive order to stay home, observe limited time in public places, and follow the curfew hours all because of safety reasons.

Not everyone gets to do these like our frontliners who put themselves out there to help mitigate the spread of the virus and give care for those infected. For this reason, the community steps up, comes together with an increased sense of compassion and benevolence to frontliners.

Private businesses and people have been showing support in whatever way to get the

message across that the "community appreciates the work that you do."

The COVID-19 Task Force Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is composed of over a hundred doctors and nurses assigned at the hospital and at the quarantine sites. These men and women demonstrate commitment and dedication to the profession they signed up for and the sacrifices they make every day to protect the community.

Earlier this month, the CNMI franchise of fast food giant KFC stepped up to the plate with a donation of 100 food packs to CNMI health care frontliners as a show of support for their efforts.

In an earlier interview, Ramona Jones, CEO of Jones



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services received donations of cup noodles from Dong A Corp. last week to show support and gratitude for the hard work they do for the CNMI.

& Guerrero, which is the local franchisee of the Saipan branch of KFC/Taco Bell, said

helping and supporting the CNMI's health care workers is a privilege. "We just want to give back to the community and support our health workers during these challenging times," she said. "Our hope is that this will inspire other local businesses to consider extending the same gesture if they are able."

Last Friday, private citizens, who requested not to be named, treated the medical frontliners lunch.

"The medical care providers are today's soldiers landing on beaches and firefighters running up the towers. They know the risks to themselves and to their families, but they still go every single day. The least we can do is buy them

lunch, this way, we are helping local businesses as well to thrive and persevere during this challenging time and hopefully encourage others to be proactive."

One of the several responsibilities of the COVID-19 Task Force Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services is to man the quarantine sites at Kanoa Resort in Susupe, Pacific Island Club Saipan in San Antonio, and the former Mariana Resort & Spa in Mapri.

Last week, The COVID-19 Task Force DFEMS received donations of bread from Great Harvest Bread Co. Saipan, water from Joeten Enterprise, and cup noodles from Dong A Corp.

According to Maria Valentina Haberman of Triple J Marketing, they cannot say thank you enough to the DFEMS team assigned at the quarantine sites. "It is Great Harvest's way of showing appreciation... it was a genuine gesture from the Great Harvest team to the men and women of DFEMS," she said.

Aside from donations, comments from the community from the Facebook pages of COVID 19 Task Force gave out encouragement and gratitude.

Kevin-Yuline Fitial wrote DFEMS saying thank you for all their sacrifices. Joaquina Mendiola in her comment send her prayers to DFEMS team.

COVID-19 Task Force Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is responsible for the transport of passengers from the airport to the quarantine sites and their transfer. William Indalecio posted on their Facebook page words of gratitude "Thank you guys for the service and all the hardship that you undergo to protect the community. You guys are truly heroes," he said.

The pandemic reminds us all the importance of community, the Marianastrong spirit, compassion, and humanity. CHCC CEO Esther Muna said, "We must take courage and continue to play our part to fight this virus."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boxes of freshly baked bread were donated to the men and women of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services manning the quarantine sites.

US budget deficit totals \$743.6B over past 6 months

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government's budget deficit for the first half of this budget year totaled \$743.6 billion, up 7.6% from last year, and well on its way to topping \$1 trillion even before the impacts of the coronavirus were felt.

The Treasury Department reported Friday that the deficit from October, the start of the government's budget year, through March was \$52.5 billion higher than the same period a year ago.

The Trump administration and the Congressional Budget Office were already forecasting that this year's deficit would top \$1 trillion for the first time since 2012. But now with a \$2.2 trillion rescue package approved by Congress and government spending expected to rise sharply,

private economists are estimating that this year's deficit could well exceed \$2 trillion.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said that he expects the deficit to hit \$2.5 trillion this year and also next year. Previously, the highest deficits in dollar terms occurred in a four-year stretch from 2009 through 2012 when the government was spending billions of dollars to pull the country out of the deepest downturn since the Great Recession, a slump triggered by the 2008 financial crisis.

This year's deficit will increase because of the \$2.2 trillion in additional spending approved in the largest relief package ever passed by Congress but also because government revenues will slump as the economy slows if the country, as expected, enters a

deep if short, recession.

Gregory Daco, chief economist at Oxford Economics, said that the deficit for this year will likely hit \$2.2 trillion, reflecting an economy in free fall which will depress revenues and the stimulus packages already approved.

"If additional stimulus measures are passed, the deficit will be larger," Daco said.

Through March, government receipts totaled a record \$1.60 trillion for the first six months of the budget year, up 6.4% from the same period a year ago. Outlays were also a record for the first half of the year, totaling \$1.88 trillion, up 6.9% from a year ago.

The deficit for the month of March was \$119.1 billion, down from March a year ago when the deficit was \$146.9 billion.

Global pact to contain oil price crash takes shape

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The OPEC oil cartel and nations including Russia have agreed to boost oil prices by cutting as much as 10 million barrels a day in production, or a tenth of global supply. More countries, including the United States, were discussing Friday their own cuts in what would be an unprecedented global pact to stabilize the market.

The agreement between OPEC and partner countries aims to cut 10 million barrels per day until July, then 8 million barrels per day through the end of the year, and 6 million a day for 16 months beginning in 2021.

Mexico had initially blocked the deal but its president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, said Friday that he had agreed with U.S. President Donald Trump that the U.S. will compensate what Mexico cannot add to the proposed cuts.

"The United States will help Mexico along and they'll reimburse us sometime at later date when they're prepared to do so," Trump said at a White House press briefing Friday.

Mexico had offered to cut production by 100,000 barrels per day, but OPEC wanted more of a sacrifice. So the U.S. agreed to fill in the gap and cut its production by 250,000 to 300,000 barrels per day, "which we've already done, by the way," Trump said.

"U.S. production has already been cut, because we're a market-driven economy, and oil is very market-driven," he said. "They've been cutting oil all over the place."

The U.S. is already on track for a production decline of 2 million to 3 million barrels per day, said Dan Brouillette, secretary of the U.S. Energy Department.

Altogether, the agreements could cut production by 15 million barrels a day from

May through June, Russian energy minister Alexander Novak said on state TV channel Rossiya-24. That's about 15% of world production. Such a move would be unprecedented both in its size and the number of participating countries, many of whom have long been bitter rivals in the energy industry.

The price of crude is down by over 50% since the start of the year and while that helps consumers and energy-hungry businesses, it is below the cost of production for many countries and companies. That has strained the budgets of oil-producing nations, many of which are developing economies, and it has pushed private companies in the U.S. toward bankruptcy.

Analysts warn even these proposed cuts may not be enough to offset the loss in demand over the longer term, as the coronavirus pandemic has decimated demand for energy around the world.

Nation

Some doctors moving away from ventilators for virus patients

NEW YORK (AP)—As health officials around the world push to get more ventilators to treat coronavirus patients, some doctors are moving away from using the breathing machines when they can.

The reason: Some hospitals have reported unusually high death rates for coronavirus patients on ventilators, and some doctors worry that the machines could be harming certain patients.

The evolving treatments highlight the fact that doctors are still learning the best way to manage a virus that emerged only months ago. They are relying on anecdotal, real-time data amid a crush of patients and shortages of basic supplies.

Mechanical ventilators push oxygen into patients whose lungs are failing. Using the machines involves sedating a patient and sticking a tube into the throat. Deaths in such sick patients are common, no matter the reason they need the breathing help.

Generally speaking, 40% to 50% of patients with severe respiratory distress die while on ventilators, experts say. But 80% or more of coronavirus patients placed on the machines in New York City have died, state and city



In this April 1, 2020, file photo, healthcare workers assist a COVID-19 patient at a library that was turned into an intensive care unit (ICU) at Germans Trias i Pujol hospital in Badalona, Barcelona province, Spain.

officials say.

Higher-than-normal death rates also have been reported elsewhere in the U.S., said Dr. Albert Rizzo, the American Lung Association's chief medical officer.

Similar reports have

emerged from China and the United Kingdom. One U.K. report put the figure at 66%. A very small study in Wuhan, the Chinese city where the disease first emerged, said 86% died.

The reason is not clear. It

may have to do with what kind of shape the patients were in before they were infected. Or it could be related to how sick they had become by the time they were put on the machines, some experts said.

But some health professionals have wondered whether ventilators might actually make matters worse in certain patients, perhaps by igniting

or worsening a harmful immune system reaction.

That's speculation. But experts do say ventilators can be damaging to a patient over time, as high-pressure oxygen is forced into the tiny air sacs in a patient's lungs.

"We know that mechanical ventilation is not benign," said Dr. Eddy Fan, an expert on respiratory treatment at Toronto

General Hospital. "One of the most important findings in the last few decades is that medical ventilation can worsen lung injury — so we have to be careful how we use it."

The dangers can be eased by limiting the amount of pressure and the size of breaths delivered by the machine, Fan said.

But some doctors say they're trying to keep patients off ventilators as long as possible, and turning to other techniques instead.

Only a few weeks ago in New York City, coronavirus patients who came in quite sick were routinely placed on ventilators to keep them breathing, said Dr. Joseph Habboushe, an emergency medicine doctor who works in Manhattan hospitals.

But increasingly, physicians are trying other measures first. One is having patients lie in different positions — including on their stomachs — to allow different parts of the lung to aerate better. Another is giving patients more oxygen through nose tubes or other devices. Some doctors are experimenting with adding nitric oxide to the mix, to help improve blood flow and oxygen to the least damaged parts of the lungs.

"If we're able to make them better without intubating them, they are more likely to have a better outcome — we think," Habboushe said.

Are schools open? Governor, NYC mayor give different answers

NEW YORK (AP)—Governor and mayor locked horns again Saturday, this time over whether school buildings in the nation's largest district would close for the rest of the year, with classes continuing online.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a news briefing that public school sites in the city's 1.1 million-student school district would shutter for the rest of the academic year to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Soon afterward, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said at his own briefing that the decision was his to make.

"It is my legal authority in this situation, yes," Cuomo said.

De Blasio, like Cuomo a Democrat, had said that it was not an easy decision to close school buildings in favor of online learning, but that "it is the right decision and it's also a decision made a little clearer by the fact that the distance learning is working more and more every day."

The goal, he said, is to reopen school sites by September, adding that high school graduates

may have to go without a commencement ceremony.

But Cuomo said school closings would have to be coordinated with districts surrounding the city.

"So I understand the mayor's position, which is he wants to close them until June, and we may do that, but we're going to do it in a coordinated sense with the other localities," Cuomo said. "It makes no sense for one locality to take an action that's not coordinated with the others."

When a reporter suggested that the mixed messages would confuse parents, Cuomo said, "We just clarified it. It's not going to be decided in the next few days because we don't know."

Adding to the confusion, an email from the city to parents was issued while Cuomo spoke, advising of the extended school closing.

"NYC school students will continue with Remote Learning for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year," it said.

The dispute was the latest bout in a long-running grudge match between the two elected officials, who have failed to

maintain a united front in the face of a pandemic.

When de Blasio said last month that city residents should prepare for a "shelter-in-place" order, Cuomo countered that the city didn't have the power to make such a declaration.

Days later, Cuomo announced a "New York state on pause" order directing nonessential businesses to close and telling people to stay 6 feet away from others when in public. The order sounded much like shelter-in-place, a term de Blasio has continued to use.

De Blasio spokeswoman Freddi Goldstein alluded to the earlier dispute on Twitter, saying Cuomo's reaction to de Blasio's school announcement was "reminiscent of how he reacted when the Mayor called for a shelter in place. We were right then and we're right now."

Cuomo addressed the school issue as he released numbers showing that 783 deaths from COVID-19 were recorded statewide on Friday, the fifth day in a row that the toll topped 700.

Easter tornado threat poses safety dilemma during pandemic

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—The threat of strong tornadoes and other damaging weather on Easter posed a double-edged safety dilemma for Deep South communities deciding how to protect residents during the coronavirus pandemic.

An outbreak of severe thunderstorms was likely Sunday from Louisiana through the Tennessee Valley, the National Weather Service said. More than 4.5 million people live in the area where dangerous weather was most likely, including Birmingham and Jackson, Mississippi, the Storm Prediction Center said on its website.

The National Weather Service office in Jackson told residents to brace for the possibility of long-lasting tornadoes, wind gusts up to 70 mph (113 km) and tennis ball-size hail through Sunday evening. Waves of storms with occasional lulls could continue into early Monday, with as much as 3 inches (8 centimeters) of

rain possible.

"This could be one of our bigger events we've had in a long time around here. Take this seriously," weather service forecaster Gary Goggins said in a public briefing broadcast on Facebook live from the agency's Birmingham-area office.

Severe thunderstorms began erupting Saturday in Texas as a low pressure system over the Southwest funneled unstable air toward the Southeast.

Seeking protection from violent weather during the coronavirus pandemic could present a challenge for some.

With many churches having ended traditional, indoor services because of the viral outbreak, congregations planned to hold online services or drive-in worship where people sit in vehicles, which are a bad place to be during a tornado. Some churches announced they were moving up Easter drive-in service to Saturday afternoon because of the threat.

Community storm shelters presented another problem.

Although forecasters and the Alabama Department of Public Health advised people to seek protection in public storm shelters if faced with the possibility of twisters, some communities, citing COVID-19, waffled on whether to open shelters on Sunday.

In a video message posted on the town's Facebook page on Friday, Alexander City Mayor Thomas Spraggins said residents of the central Alabama town needed to find a safe place on their own since public buildings wouldn't be open as shelters because of the coronavirus.

"I'll be praying for everyone to have a safe and happy Easter," he said.

A statement from the city's police department on Saturday said shelters would be opened after all, with temperature checks performed and gloves and masks being provided to anyone entering.

World

Italy begins to grapple with how to ease virus restrictions

SOAVE, Italy (AP)—With warmer weather beckoning, Italians are straining against a strict lockdown to halt the coronavirus that is just now showing signs of ebbing at the end of five weeks of mass isolation.

Italy was the first Western democracy to be hit by the virus, and it has been leading the official global death toll with

19,468 victims through Saturday. Now it is likely to set an example of how to lift broad restrictions that have imposed the harshest peacetime limits on personal freedom and shut down all nonessential industry.

Right now, schools are closed and children are not permitted to play in parks. Walks outdoors are limited to

a distance of 200 meters (less than a quarter-mile) and any excursion not strictly a matter of necessity risks hefty fines.

The official line is patience with measures that have shown success in slowing the virus spread, until there is a clear decline in the number of new cases. Still, officials have begun grappling with the

question of how to manage social distancing on mass transit, re-open ordinary commerce and relaunch manufacturing without risking another peak.

The so-called Phase II is being described as a cautious re-opening, as society continues to live alongside the virus until a vaccine can be developed, perhaps in 12 to 18 months.

"We obviously don't want to delude ourselves that everything will change," Premier Giuseppe Conte told Italians this week.

On Friday, Conte extended the nationwide lockdown through May 3. That includes all nonessential industry, after which, "I hope we can start again with caution and gradually—but restart," he said.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially

older adults and people with health problems, it can cause severe symptoms like pneumonia.

A technical committee advising the government is working to expand testing for COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, to get a better picture of how widespread it is in Italy before measures can be eased. Preparations are also underway to launch a mobile app that will allow people to know if they have been near anyone who is positive, something that is expected to take at least a month.

"With this you can allow people to have more freedom of movement," said Walter Ricciardi, a public health expert and member of the World Health Organization board who is advising the Italian government.

The technology for the app already exists, but authorities were working on technical details on how to deploy it.

Experts in Italy are coordinating with their European partners so the tracking can be applied across borders, which have been de facto closed by the virus. The goal is to establish a common technology, which could help in re-establishing freedom of movement among EU nations.

Using the app would be voluntary for anyone wanting to know whether they have come into contact with an infected person that they would have no other way of identifying. Any contacts would be tested, and if positive treated, according to the WHO initiative: trace, test and treat.

Advocates insist that anonymity would be protected and that no personal data would be at risk, likening the app to other widely used applications like Google Maps or TripAdvisor, which help users identify specific data.

Congo, weary from Ebola, must also battle the coronavirus

BENI, Congo (AP)—Congo has been battling an Ebola outbreak that has killed thousands of people for more than 18 months, and now it must also face a new scourge: the coronavirus pandemic.

Ebola has left those living in the country's east weary and fearful, and, just as they were preparing to declare an end to the outbreak, a new case popped up. Now, they will now have to manage both threats at once.

The new virus has overwhelmed some of the world's best hospital systems in Europe and ripped through communities in New York. In Congo, it could spread unchecked in a country that has endured decades of conflict, where corruption has left the population largely impoverished despite mineral wealth, and where mistrust of authority is so entrenched that health workers have been killed during the Ebola outbreak. It's also unclear how forthcoming international support will be at a time when the whole world is battling the coronavirus.

"It all feels like one big storm," said Martine Milonde, a Congolese community mobilizer who works with the aid group World Vision in Beni, which has been the epicenter of the Ebola outbreak. "Truly, this is a crisis within a crisis. The community suffers from insecurity, and suffered under Ebola, and now may have to face COVID-19."

In early March, an Ebola patient whom many hoped would be the last was discharged, and the outbreak was supposed to be officially declared over Sunday. But the World Health Organization on Friday announced a new case in Beni.

The outbreak has claimed more than 2,260 lives since August 2018—the second largest the world has ever seen, after the 2014-2016 outbreak in West Africa.

Still, there is some hope: Many of the tools used to fight Ebola—hand-washing and social distancing chief among them—are also key to combating the coronavirus.

In Beni, which has reported two cases of the new coronavirus, "the communities here hold onto some hope that they are going to overcome this pandemic the way they had been working to overcome Ebola," said Milonde. "They are counting on the caution, vigilance and hygiene practices that they have been performing to save their families."

Community advocates in

Beni—who walk around with megaphones to talk about Ebola—have started to include warnings about the coronavirus.

Messages explaining COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, and where to go if sick are being spread on radio stations, through text message blasts and by religious leaders. Schools, churches and mosques are already armed with hand-washing kits.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

†VICENTE (BEN) CABRERA ATTAO

†Vicente (Ben) Cabrera Attao, born on July 19, 1952, on the beautiful island of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, finished his journey on March 26, 2020, in Coeur D Alene, Idaho. As he made his grand entrance into heaven, he was greeted by:

Parents: †Jose San Nicolas and †Rosario Mendiola Cabrera Attao
Paternal Grandparents: †Vicente Magofna and †Natividad San Nicolas Attao
Maternal Grandparents: †Jose Palacios and †Maria Mendiola Cabrea
Parents-in-law: †Joshua and Hazel Arthur
Granddaughter: †Rosario Barbara Attao Greene
Sisters-in-law: †Helene Sison, †Veronica Bulltail, †Constance Arthur, †Joanne (Ms. Webster) Arthur
Brother-in-law: †Jimmy Arthur
Nephews: †Guy "Guy Smiley" Bulltail, †Cliffon "Sonny" Twohatchet, †Timothy J "TJ" Arthur and †Jerry Arthur
Grandnephew: †Robert Hugs Jr.

†Ben's life and love will live on in the hearts of:

Wife: Elizabeth Arthur Attao
Daughters: **Ina Attao** and children - Juanda (Karl Ada) Camacho, Naomi Camacho, John Vincent Camacho and Vicente Leon Guerrero
Kristine (James Greene) Attao and children - Kristina/Drew Waits (Roman and William); Samuel Greene, James Greene Jr and Elizabeth Greene
Catherine (Mark Toves) Attao and children - Joseph Attao, Markel Toves, Raymond Mercado, Theresa Toves, Merrick Toves and Markus Toves
Sisters: **Celina A. (Aldebert) Concepcion** and children- Aldebert Jr/Carminadela Concepcion (Aldebert III, Joseph, Brian), Christopher/Natsu Concepcion, Kimberly/Cole Pritchard (Noa) and Michael/Sheryl Concepcion (Damien/Jaden)
Maria Ramona "Marlene" A. (Ricardo) Balajadia and children- Ricardo Jr/Jaclyn Balajadia (Sierra Santiago - Liam) and Brian/Charlyn Balajadia (Brian Conner/Cohen).
Extended Family: **Florencia (Ronald Mirafior) Gacutan** and children - Joel/Fenny Macaraeg (Kyle/Julliene) and Richard/Kristine Macaraeg

Brothers/Sisters-in-law:
 Benjamin Arthur and family
 Victor Sison and family
 Mary Arthur and family
 Joanne "Jo" (Leo) Arthur and family
 Mark Arthur and family
 Webster Arthur and family
 Patricia Arthur and family
 Ralph (Linda) Arthur and family
 Virginia "Toby" (Tony) Dick and family

And many family and friends in the National Park Service (American Memorial Park, Nez Perce National Historical Park), Mount Carmel Class of 1971, throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Lapwai, Lewiston, and Boise, Idaho, Pullman and Tacoma, Washington.

The family would like to extend our deepest appreciation for all the thoughts and prayers extended. We will be celebrating his life in a Memorial Mass to be announced at a later date. Un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase and Hiimaqis Qe'ciyew'yew'. God Bless you all.

"To be absent from the body, is to be in the presence of our Lord."

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
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Tan Siu Lin
Foundation



Joyce Kriesmer, 91, right, and her twin sister Jackie Voskamp wave from their balcony at Vi at La Jolla Village as they and several other quarantined residents of the senior living apartment building gather on their balconies to participate in a daily afternoon pep rally on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 in San Diego, Calif.

HAYNE PALMOUR IV/SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

Twins, 91, riding out quarantine together with daily pep rallies

By PAM KRAGEN
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

For two weeks now, Jackie Voskamp and Joyce Kriesmer have barely left the apartment they share at the Vi at La Jolla Village senior complex. The 91-year-old identical twins are in a high-risk age group for COVID-19, so they have been in self-imposed lockdown.

The sisters have stopped taking their daily 1-mile outdoor walks and doing stair-climbing exercises. They've also given up shopping, bridge games, visits with their family and meals outside their apartment. Fortunately, the lifelong best friends have each other's company in isolation and they relish the Vi's recently launched 10-minute "pep rallies."

At 2:30 p.m. each weekday, more than 100 residents head out to their balconies to join employees in the courtyard below in singalongs, exercises, cheers, sign-waving and general noise-making to let off steam, soak up some sunshine and get a bit of exercise.

"We come back into the apartment with a big smile on our faces every day," said Joyce, who said she loves to "make a big racket" at the rallies by banging a metal bowl with a spoon. Her sister Jackie calls the events a "big shot in the arm" for the healing power they have.

"Joyce and I find it so uplifting," Jackie said. "Maybe just being able to scream and sing and holler is good for the soul."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, older adults and people with chronic illnesses are twice as likely to suffer severe effects from an infection of COVID-19. As a result, sheltering in place, avoiding unnecessary physical contact with others and practicing social distancing of 6 feet or more is recommended.

But social distancing doesn't have to mean cutting off social contact with loved ones. Staying in touch by telephone, FaceTime, email or letters is one of the most important ways that seniors can reduce loneliness, anxiety and uncertainty while shel-

tering in place, said Dr. Dilip Jeste, a geriatric neuropsychiatrist at UC San Diego's medical school.

Jeste led a team of UC San Diego researchers in publishing a study in January on loneliness in senior housing communities. Published in the journal *Aging and Mental Health*, the study was based on 30 residents, ages 67 to 92, at an independent-living community in San Diego.

The researchers found 85% of the subjects have moderate to severe levels of loneliness, even though they are surrounded by other people and have access to many social and recreational activities. The purpose of the ongoing five-year study is to understand the factors that can cause loneliness, which can put sufferers at a higher risk for developing health issues such as dementia, depression, heart disease and premature death.

Although the study was published before the state's shelter-in-place rules took effect, Jeste said his team

than binge-watching the news. And he encourages seniors to practice empathy and compassion for others because it enhances well-being for both the giver and the receiver.

"There's this sense that older people are vulnerable, sick and needy, but that's not true. They are strong mentally. They have so many strengths they hardly realize," Jeste said.

Dr. Kenneth Roth, co-founder of San Diego Internal Medical Associates, said the senior patients he's been meeting with via telemedicine appointments since March 18 have expressed problems with anxiety, fear, depression and insomnia.

"Patients really want to talk," Roth said. "As a physician with a longstanding relationship with a lot of these patients, to see them, tell them they look healthy and give them the reassurance they need is very settling for them."

Roth recommends that his patients exercise, get outdoors and talk to others about their worries. Also, to make

Well, we came into this world together so we may as well stick it out and go out together.

has stayed in regular touch with the subjects and they have observed how the new quarantine restrictions have impacted their lives.

"Some people are taking it in stride. They say: 'Worse things have happened to me and I'll come out of this.' But many people are pretty confused, anxious and panicky," Jeste said.

A contributing factor to seniors' anxiety right now, Jeste said, is the information is constantly changing on how COVID-19 is transmitted, its symptoms and the potential length of the outbreak. Usually, seniors can spend time with their loved ones for information, reassurance and comfort, but that lifeline has been cut.

To avoid loneliness, Jeste recommends seniors stay in touch regularly with their children, grandchildren and friends to share positive news and stories of hardships they've overcome in the past. He also recommends daily exercise, reading books and watching movies they love rather

extended home life healthier and less monotonous, he encourages patients to reinvent their daily routine to keep it fresh and avoid overindulging in alcohol or food.

At the Vi, common areas have been closed and all meals are delivered to residents' doors, along with pages of puzzles and activities to pass the time. The staff also makes a daily health check-in call to all of the nearly 600 residents in the 21-story buildings.

So far, there have been no diagnosed cases at the Vi, but Jackie and Joyce say they're not taking any chances. The only times they leave their apartment is to ride the elevator down from their fourth-floor apartment to pick up their mail or delivered groceries.

But not all of the residents at the Vi are strictly adhering to the shelter-in-place rules. Jackie and Joyce said that many fellow residents have the mindset that they're not afraid of coronavirus because they survived the Great Depression, wars and past epidemics.

"We're not all that worried, either," Jackie said. "At our age we're living on borrowed time."

Jackie and Joyce were born seven minutes apart on March 1, 1929, in Los Angeles. Nine years later, their dad, Roy Haug, landed a high-paying job (\$209 a month) drilling oil wells near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, for the company that would become Saudi Aramco. The twins, their older brother and mother stayed behind in Central California. When World War II erupted, Haug was sent home and after the war, he returned to Dhahran with his family.

The twins arrived in Saudi Arabia just after they finished high school. With so many well-educated engineers flooding into the fast-growing oil town, the sisters—who worked in the town's library—soon met their future husbands.

In 1949, Jackie married George Larsen. They had two children and spent 27 years in Saudi Arabia plus three more in Nigeria and Beirut. After Larsen passed away, she married Raymond Voskamp. They lived in Vista for 19 years until Raymond died three years ago.

Joyce married John Kriesmer in 1951. They had three children and spent 35 years in Saudi Arabia before returning to the United States. From 1998 to 2011, they lived in Escondido and then moved to Rancho Bernardo's Remington Club retirement community, where John passed away in 2013.

In 2017, the widowed siblings decided to move in together at the Vi.

"When we signed up, Joyce said, 'Well, we came into this world together so we may as well stick it out and go out together,'" Jackie said.

To pass the time while in quarantine, the twins say they have been reading the newspaper and books, cleaning out cupboards, arranging photo albums, phoning friends and playing a card game known as Spite and Malice. Both sisters said the time goes quickly when you're passing it with the person you're closest to in the world.

"We've just had a lifetime of friendship that surpasses being sisters," Joyce said. "It has been a beautiful relationship and it's only gotten stronger since we became housemates."

Importance of home exercise while being isolated



As social distancing becomes the norm due to COVID-19, it's important to find new ways to remain active, as exercise is important.

"We need fitness for better overall health but in particular to keep



our stress level down, especially now. We don't want our mus-

cles to become sedentary since we're staying at home," says Dr. Sunni Alessandria, a Mayo Clinic physical therapist.

Alessandria says that while items such as exercise bands, a fitness ball or weights are useful, you don't need special equipment to stay active at home.



"You can use basic things you can find at your home, including stairs, a wall, a chair? even things from your pantry like a can of soup or two-pound bag of flour," she says. "If you are outside, a curb or step will work well, too."

Alessandria says it's important to schedule time in your day and create a routine for maximum benefit. (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)

Life & Style

Disney World furloughing 43,000 more workers due to virus

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Walt Disney World plans to stop paying wages to 43,000 workers in about a week while allowing them to keep

their benefits for up to a year in what is the largest wave of furloughs since the theme park resort closed in mid-March because of the new coronavirus spread.

Workers will be able to keep their medical, dental and life insurance benefits for the length of the furlough period, or up to a year. Seniority and wage rates will remain unchanged for the workers whose furloughs start April 19, according to a statement from the Service Trades Council, the coalition of unions representing the Disney World workers.

"The union agreement provides stronger protections

and benefits for 43,000 union workers at Disney than virtually any other furloughed or laid-off workers in the United States," the union said in a statement to members.

About 200 workers will remain on the job performing "essential duties" during the closure, and they will be offered positions based on seniority, the union said.

The agreement with the Service Trades Council marked the largest group of workers at Disney World to come to

terms on furloughs with the company during the new coronavirus outbreak. With 77,000 workers, Disney World is the largest single-site group of workers in the nation.

Disney World's theme parks, entertainment district and hotels closed in mid-March, and Disney has been paying its workers while they stay at home. That is scheduled to end April 19, Disney officials have said, because they don't know when the theme park resort

will reopen.

On Friday, unions representing security guards and workers involved in facilities and operations reached agreements under similar terms.

Earlier this week, Disney World and a union representing musicians who perform at its theme parks reached a similar agreement.

Disney also said it would furlough executive, salaried and hourly nonunion employees whose jobs aren't necessary at this time.

Sean Penn wants to 'save lives' with free COVID-19 testing

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)—After nearly a decade of helping communities in distress abroad, Sean Penn is joining the fight against the coronavirus much closer to home.

The Oscar winner's disaster relief organization CORE has teamed up with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's office and the city's fire department to safely distribute free drive-thru COVID-19 test sites for those with qualifying symptoms. He along with his staff wearing hazard suits also

are administering tests in his home city of Malibu.

Penn hopes the program can "save lives and alleviate depletion of resources" through the efforts of CORE, which stands for Community Organized Relief Effort. His non-profit organization stepped in to help rebuild Haiti after the 2010 earthquake and the devastating Hurricane Matthew.

The actor said he and his staff decided to "pull the trigger" very quickly to help run the test sites.

Los Angeles adds new sexual battery count against Weinstein

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles prosecutors have charged imprisoned former film producer Harvey Weinstein with an additional count of felony sexual battery by restraint.

The district attorney's office said the charge was filed over allegations the former movie mogul sexually assaulted a woman at a Beverly Hills hotel in May 2010. The woman was initially interviewed by detectives as a corroborating witness but recently provided details showing her alleged assault occurred within the 10-year statute of limitations.

The charge has been added to a Los Angeles case that alleges Weinstein sexually as-

saulted two women in separate incidents in 2013.

Weinstein, 68, was convicted in February of rape and sexual assault in New York and is serving a 23-year prison sentence. He recently overcame a bout with coronavirus. It is unknown when he will be transported to face the charges in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles prosecutors on Friday said they are declining to prosecute two other cases involving Weinstein because the women did not want to testify against him. Both alleged victims are described in a document as actresses, and one testified against Weinstein at his New York trial.

Russians decorate isolation by recreating artworks

MOSCOW (AP)—In the coronavirus lockdown, Russians can't go to their beloved and renowned museums. So they're filling the holes in their souls by recreating artworks while stuck at home and posting them on social media.

The Facebook group where the works are posted has become a huge hit. The art recreations range from studious and reverent to flippant and goofy. They're done both by Russians and Russian-speakers abroad.

Some 350,000 people are following the group, where thousands of photos are posted, each showing the original work and the mockup made at home. The rules say it must only use items on hand and can't be digitally manipulated.

There are some impressive



In this two photo combo, an undated copy of Johannes Vermeer's 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' artwork, left, and Vitaly Fonarev's recreation for the Izoizolyacia Facebook page, takes on Thursday, April 9, 2020 in Haifa, Israel. In the coronavirus lockdown,

surprises in the collection. Vitaly Fonarev carefully recreated the clothes and head-dress of Johannes Vermeer's "Girl With a Pearl Earring" and captured the Dutch art-

ist's famous glowing light. The work is so convincing that it takes a few moments to notice that the "girl" actually is a man with a few days' worth of beard stubble.

'Friends' reunion won't be here for us at HBO Max launch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The "Friends" reunion won't be here for us as soon as expected.

Production on the special has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic that's brought movie and TV making

to a standstill.

The special, featuring the entire original "Friends" cast, was to be part of the May launch of the new HBO Max streaming service. No taping was done before the health crisis hit, the

company said Friday.

The Emmy-winning "Friends," which ended its 10-season run in 2004, made Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Matthew Perry, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc and

David Schwimmer into household names.

Plans call for the special, called a "celebration of the beloved show," to be shot on the same Burbank, California, sound stage where the series taped.

Words of encouragement help keep the country's spirits up

DEAR ABBY: I believe that love conquers all. The worldwide coronavirus is teaching us we are all one in body, but not yet in spirit. Every day may not be good, but there is good in every day. Don't count the days—make the days count by throwing a kiss, sharing a smile with others, and waving a hand of greeting to them.

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Drink a refreshing glass of lemonade and make a toast: "To our health, God willing. Never give up!" And remember, the best medicine is a dose of laughter.

As President Kennedy said, our most common link is that, "We all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future, and we are all mortal."

Abby, won't you ask your readers to pause daily to reflect, think positively and affirm the conviction that we as a nation will overcome this challenge as we have so many others before? Be agents for globalizing hope. Do good for others. The greatest joy in life comes from giving.

Sending love and hope to all.

CARMELLA LaSPADA, FOUNDER,
NO GREATER LOVE, INC.

DEAR CARMELLA: I could not agree more. Readers

have been asking me how to cope with the changed reality of everyday life since the COVID-19 virus struck this country. Reaching out to help someone else is a potent remedy for anyone who is experiencing the blues and cabin fever. Even if you can't be supportive in person, a phone call, a text, a post with an uplifting message or a joke can lighten the mood of someone who is feeling isolated. I am glad you wrote, Carmella, and I hope your message will resonate.

DEAR ABBY: I have encountered an "over-hugger." I have always hugged, but I take care to respect how others feel about it. This person does not extend that courtesy. His typical hug involves picking the recipient up off the ground. It's invasive, in my opinion. The last time I saw him, I offered my hand. Instead of taking it, he yanked me in and said, "We give hugs here!" I know he wants to show affection, but he puts his own needs before the needs of others.

I want to tell him not to hug me anymore. However, it's complicated because we are part of a loose-knit athletic community.

First, is it odd of me not to want his hugs? Second, how do you recommend I send the message that a handshake is the most I want?

NO BEAR HUGS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR NO BEAR HUGS: Pandemic notwithstanding, in general terms, I agree that what this person is doing is over the top. If he were to yank and lift someone who has back issues, he could harm the person.

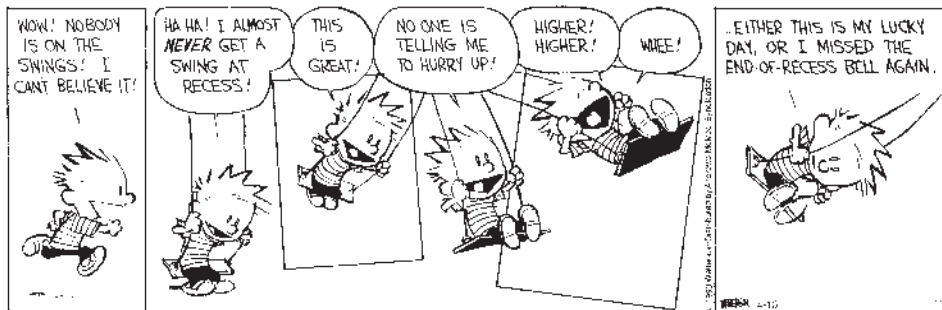
My first thought would be to tell this man privately that you don't want him lifting you. If you can't take him aside and do that, then call him or write him a letter.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Zing
4 Twisty letter
7 Cambodia neighbor
11 Sleep like —
13 Wrestling surface
14 Sty cry
15 Prison room
16 Spanish gold
17 MRI fore-runner
18 Whale's home
20 Cookbook author
22 Actress Saldana
24 Chanted word
28 Under-ground chambers
32 Perfect
33 Mellowed
34 Numerical prefix
36 Curse
37 Soft leather

DOWN

1 Designer
2 Power co.
3 North —
4 Punk-rock subgenre
5 Delhi dress
6 Tempest
7 Savory breakfast fare
8 Tire
9 "— Clear Day"
10 Blue hue
12 Sweet breakfast
19 Hide-hair insert
21 — tai (cocktail)
23 Tolkien creature
25 Squad
26 Hindu royal
27 Actor Baldwin
28 Moolah
29 Chills and fever
30 Swerve
31 — Lanka
35 Some-what (Suff.)
38 Rock's Brian
40 Remiss
42 Dispar-aging
45 Final notice
47 Lunch hour
48 Monster
49 Must have
50 "Way cool!"
51 Lawyers' gp.
52 Chap
54 AWOL pursuers

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 04/13

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Allison Williams, 32; Lorenzo Cain, 34; Rick Schroder, 50; Al Green, 74.

Happy Birthday: Getting upset over something you cannot change will hold you back. Be secretive regarding your plans until you have everything in place. Fill out forms that will help you receive assistance in reaching your goal. Go through the proper channels, and you will build a solid foundation to house your long-term plans. Personal improvements will lead to financial gains. Your numbers are 3, 9, 20, 27, 31, 34, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let emotions stop you from reaching your goal. Concentrate on getting things done, and you will ease stress and feel good about your accomplishments. Refuse to let what others do lead you astray. Avoid excess and indulgence. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A hasty move will be shortsighted and likely lead to a mistake or loss. Use your intelligence, not your brawn, to reach your objective. You have what it takes to deliver the goods, so don't fold under pressure. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will let you down. Take care of things, and you won't be disappointed. Make plans based on what you know and what you have to offer. A learning experience is apparent. Focus on personal growth. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to people who share your sentiments. Create a friendly atmosphere, and suggest common goals that will encourage better relationships with supportive people. Change only what's necessary, and get involved with people and activities that are beneficial. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Give your all to receive the highest return. There is no room for error, and arguments and mistakes will lead to regret. Don't leave anything incomplete or to chance. Do your job with precision, and strive to get ahead. Romance is featured. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a moment to praise someone or to offer a friendly gesture. A change will spark your imagination. New beginnings will spice up your life and put a smile on your face. Sharing your emotional and personal thoughts will change your life. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Proceed with caution. Don't take on too much or make promises you can't keep. Put more time and energy into personal growth. Follow your heart, explore possibilities and get rid of the dead weight in your life. Update your image. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Commit time and effort to yourself, and get busy accomplishing what you set out to do. Refuse to let the past hold you back or allow demanding people to deplete your energy. Make changes that benefit you. Spend what's necessary. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look at the facts and figures before you sign up for something unfamiliar. Take into consideration where the information you are getting originated. A change at home will be conducive to expanding an idea that interests you. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Soak up what's going on around you. Listen to what others have to say, but don't reveal how you feel. Don't discuss a change you want to make until you have everything in place. Stifle an emotional situation quickly. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't share your thoughts prematurely. Flesh out exactly how you want to set things up before you take action. Intelligence and brute force will help you initiate what you want to happen all by yourself. Personal improvement is favored. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone from your past will connect you to the help you need to get ahead. Optimism, coupled with a good idea, will lead to an opportunity that far exceeds your dream. Use your experience to avoid making an unfortunate mistake. ****

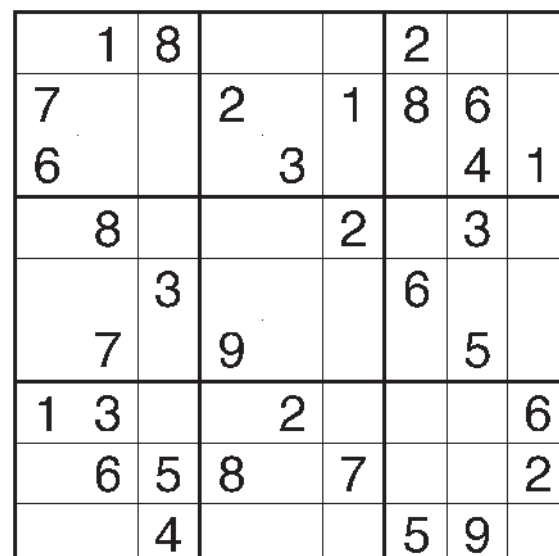
Birthday Baby: You are intense, diplomatic and ambitious. You are persistent and sensitive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

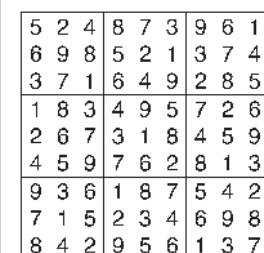
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

4/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WONDERWORD + AMU - 40 YEARS OF SYNDICATION Sol.: 9 letters

E X A M U D L E I F F E H S W
I Y G L E E M C M N S O N Y A
H I L V A L E N T I N A T N L
P V Y L M M A C E H S H A H D
O T N J E A N S C W G I N O R
S E N O L K E R E I D D G J O
R L R Y I A A R E E A E E T N
E L S C S E D N R V L C L N V
P E A E S N E N I E A I A I T
A U L D A E A D I T K R V L O
P O R M T R I T A L S O C C N
S O I E I K N A R F N I O G Y
W J N A N A Y E R A S A R H A
E I N N A E R B C C K I Y H S
N A E V A D U F F Y D N A R C

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Andy, Angela, Ariana, Book, BreAnn, Christina, Clint, Craver, Dave, David, Diana, Duffy, Frankie, Glynn, Grid, Hooker, Jean, Jim Andrews, John, Jo Ouellet, Joyce, Kelly, Lee Salem, Linda, Mace, Max, McMeel, Melissa, Newspapers, Nineteen Eighty, Rice, Rita, Ryan, Sareyan, Sheffield, Sonya, Sophie, Tonya S., Valentina, Vivona, Waldron, Word Search

Last Friday's Answer: Painful
To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

NBA teams want draft delay until Aug. 1



NEW YORK—The NBA draft is scheduled to happen on June 25, but it may not stay there.

According to Adrian Wojnarowski and Jonathan Givony of ESPN, NBA teams are uniting to pressure the league to move the draft back to August 1 or later.

As information gathering on draft-eligible prospects remains limited in a pandemic, many NBA teams are united in hopes of encouraging the league office to push the date of the June 25 draft until no sooner than August 1.

The issue is the lack of information available on draft-eligible prospects. With the NCAA Tournament cancelled, all they're allowed to look at is video of games and practice sessions that happened before the NBA suspended its season.

A memo obtained by ESPN details how teams are currently restricted from obtaining any new information on draft-eligible prospects: teams can't conduct any in person workouts or interviews (which makes sense given the COVID-19 pandemic), but they also can't request video of recent workouts that players might conduct outside of a team environment. Teams are allowed to conduct video interviews with draft-eligible prospects, but are limited to four hours per player.

There are a lot of moving parts to consider when choosing a new date for the draft. It can't be done in a vacuum, because ideally it should occur in conjunction with the end of the playoffs and the beginning of free agency. Plus, with the season in suspended animation, holding the draft on the original date of June 25 would mean no trades, and that's a problem for NBA teams.

Among front-office executives, there is an expectation that no draft would occur while teams are still engaged in the season, because that would preclude an important element of draft night: player trades. That's why team officials believe the draft and free agency should stay connected on the calendar once the season ends.

Since the NBA reportedly wants to crown a champion by Labor Day at the latest, that would place the draft in mid to late September. However, a decision on the draft isn't expected for weeks. May 1 is the earliest that commissioner Adam Silver will start to make decisions about remaining dates on the league calendar.

Booker wins 2K20

Devin Booker won the NBA 2K20 Players Tournament



AP
In this Jan. 5, 2020, file photo, Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker (1) dunks over Memphis Grizzlies forward Jaren Jackson Jr. in the second half of an NBA game in Phoenix. Booker won the NBA 2K20 Players Tournament on Saturday, April 11, 2020, sweeping Suns teammate Deandre Ayton in the best-of-three final.

Patrick Beverley, using his own Suns to top Beverley in the semifinals.

"I said in the beginning that it was going to be Deandre and I in the championship—and that's the way it ended up," Booker said.

The players were seeded by their NBA 2K player ratings.

The first NBA 2K Players Tournament was put together on short notice, but organizers say the response they have received since its April 3 television debut could lead to a lasting effect.

Though the tournament ends with Saturday's semifinal and championship rounds, broadcast from 2pm until 8pm PDT, it could spin off future versions in which NBA players continue to compete in front of national audiences, not in uniform inside enormous arenas, but in sweatshirts from within their homes.

"We're proud of what we've pulled off here," said Matt Holt, the NBA's senior vice president of global partnerships. "And I think we will try to do more of these in the future, regardless if we're in the current situation or if we have live sports back."

Since the NBA suspended its season one month ago, following the first positive test by a player for the novel coronavirus, league and media executives continue to ponder how to fill vast amounts of programming hours with no guarantees that sports will return in 2020. E-Sports tournaments cannot fill the amount of live airtime that would have been otherwise dedicated to those seasons, but the positive initial feedback from the players tournament suggests it could be a viable alternative moving forward, organizers said.

"The tournament has been incredibly well received by viewers, both through traditional TV viewership channels, and social streaming and engagement," Jason Argent, NBA 2K's senior vice president for sports strategy and licensing, wrote in an email. "The most important thing to us though is the ability to bring some competitive basketball and some light-hearted fun back to audiences around the world right now, and we're excited to see them respond in a positive way."

on Saturday night, sweeping Phoenix Suns teammate Deandre Ayton in the best-of-three final.

"I played a lot growing up," Booker said. "It's all about timing and eye coordination."

ESPN broadcast the three-day, 16-player Xbox One

competition. The last NBA games were played March 11, the day Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tested positive for the coronavirus.

Booker's Houston Rockets topped Ayton's Los Angeles Lakers 72-62 in Game 1 and the star guard directed the

Denver Nuggets to a 74-62 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks in the second.

"Anyone who thinks they can play 2K, let's get it," Booker said.

Booker earned a \$100,000 donation to a coronavirus-related relief effort of his choice.

Seeded fifth, he beat Denver's Michael Porter Jr., Washington's Rui Hachimura and the Los Angeles Clippers' Montrezl Harrell to reach the final—also sweeping those matchups.

Ayton topped Chicago's Zach LaVine, Atlanta's Trae Young and the Clippers'

Magic: Looking forward to see Lakers win title

LOS ANGELES—Magic Johnson joined CNN on Thursday to talk about the sports hiatus amid the COVID-19 shutdown.

Like most sports fans, he's hoping for "a right time" for play to resume sooner than later.

"I think sports will come back," Johnson said in a conversation with Anderson Cooper and Sanjay Gupta. "It's just a matter of when will we make sure that this virus is level and not affecting the whole country anymore."

"When those numbers drop and it stabilizes, I think those sports will come back."

He hopes that MLB can return in May, but recognizes that "players have to be safe" and COVID-19 "numbers have to be stabilized." With billions of dollars at stake, MLB appears open to any and all ideas to get its games going, including a quarantine season played entirely in Arizona with players separated from their families.

"We need sports," Johnson said. "Especially in a time like this. But only if every-

body is safe."

Johnson addressed the mostly likely scenario for the return of sports when they eventually do resume—a scenario of games being played without fans. It's a bizarre concept, but the most sensible one if there's a time when it can be done safely.

He said it would be an adjustment for NBA players, but one they'd be willing and able to make to complete this season and crown a champion.

"It's hard to play without fans," Johnson said. "Once you play one game, you'd adjust to not having fans there. We've all played our whole life on the playgrounds and pickup games without fans being there. Basketball players will know how to adjust. Trust me."

"Those guys want to see who's the world champion. ... I'm looking forward to seeing if the Lakers are gonna win the championship."

Meanwhile, last weekend offered more proof that this is a new era in Bulls basket-

ball. And that this is Arturas Karnisovas' show to run.

Even before the Bulls have made Karnisovas' hire as head of basketball operations official, the former Nuggets general manager has begun acting on team president Michael Reinsdorf's mission to build front office depth.

Karnisovas' most significant hire will be his general manager, and the process to receive permission from teams to interview his list of targeted candidates has begun. According to sources, Nuggets assistant general manager Calvin Booth, Clippers assistant general manager Mark Hughes and Magic assistant general manager Matt Lloyd are three targets.

Additionally, it was reported that 76ers assistant general manager Marc Eversley is an expected interview target.

Lloyd and Booth had been previously reported as likely candidates, although there is plenty of talk that the Nuggets will move to promote Booth in the wake of Karnisovas' departure.

NBC Sports Chicago previously reported that Reinsdorf talked with former Bull Nazr Mohammed for an undetermined front-office role. Talks could continue with Mohammed, who has worked in Sam Presti's front office in Oklahoma City. However, they're not expected to be for the general manager role.

This is all on top of the Bulls agreeing in principle to hire J.J. Polk as an assistant general manager. The Pelicans' executive director of basketball administration, who received his law degree from the University of Illinois, is renowned for his salary cap knowledge.

This is all part of Reinsdorf's mission, which meshes with Karnisovas' vision, to grow the infrastructure of a historically small front office. Wojnarowski also reported, and NBC Sports Chicago confirmed, that Nuggets scout Pat Connelly is in play for a front office role. The former Suns assistant general manager has a strong reputation in player development.

Browns new GM prepared for unique, 'virtual' draft



CLEVELAND (AP)—With degrees from Harvard in economics and computer science, Browns general manager Andrew Berry would seem perfectly suited to handle any pitfalls or problems he might encounter in his first NFL draft—a draft like no other.

He's a one-man IT department.

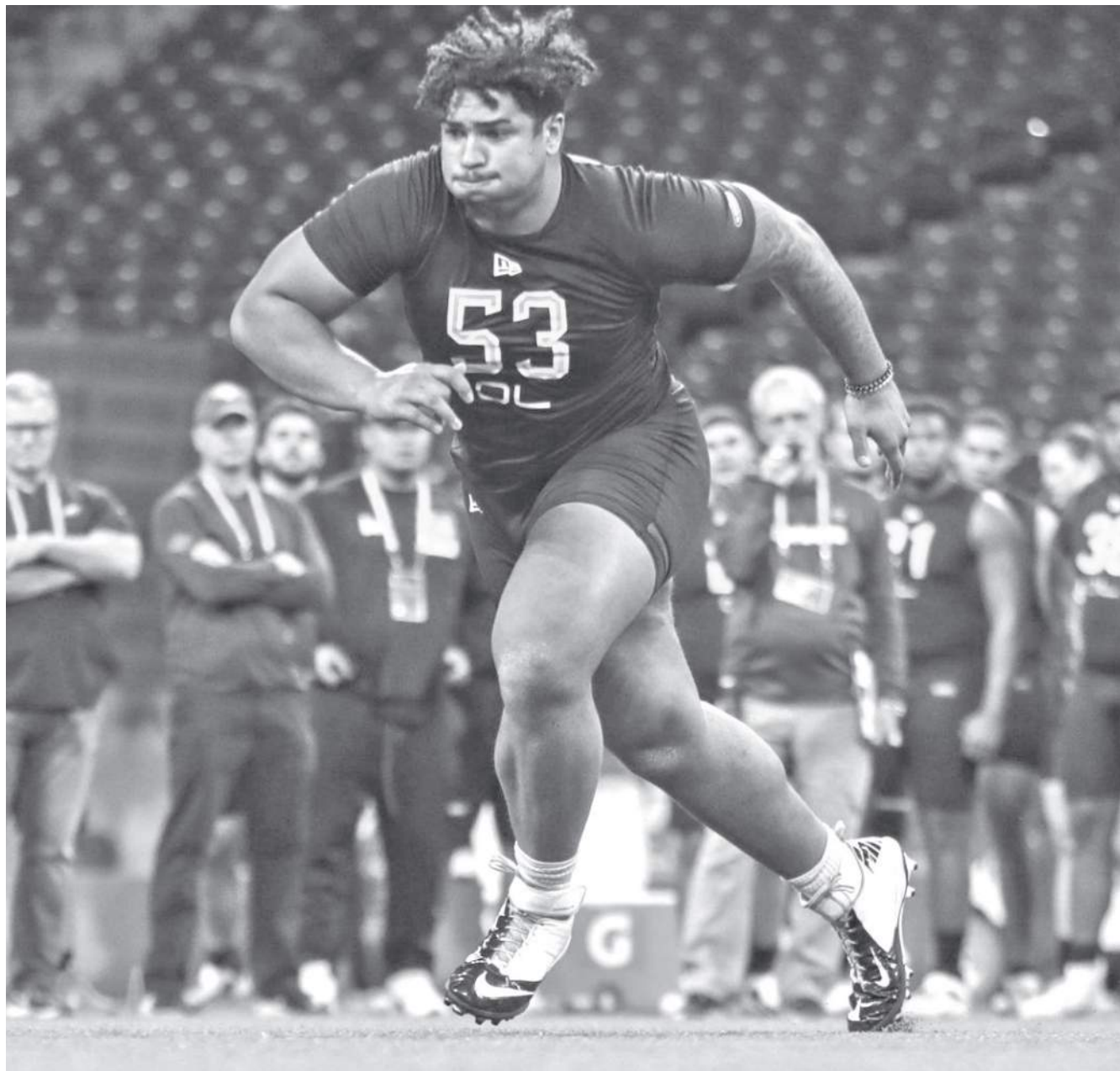
Cleveland's new general manager said Friday he's not worried about the obvious logistical challenges or potential glitches that may arise during the upcoming draft, which has been forced to become a virtual experience for the league due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

While some football executives and coaches have raised concerns over wireless connections, social-distancing guidelines and even potential hacking during the three-day draft from April 23-25, Berry believes the Browns will be able to handle anything.

"We are going to be prepared and ready to go regardless of the circumstances," Berry said on a conference call. "I feel confident that we are going to have a very high-quality draft. We have a really strong support staff that has been working through a number of creative and effective solutions that we have used already throughout the free agency and draft preparation process."

"I have full confidence that we are going to be ready to go here in two weeks."

Berry, who came back to Cleveland after one season with Philadelphia, has spent part of the past few weeks separated from his family, which delayed its move to Ohio before the virus outbreak. He's stayed busy with free agen-



In this Feb. 28, 2020 file photo, Iowa offensive lineman Tristan Wirfs runs a drill at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis. AP

archaic approach.

"Honestly, I think the distinction between left and right tackle is really outdated," he said. "We are no longer in the days of football where teams will have their best rusher and line him up on the defensive right side and offensive left side of the formation. Really, the game is not played that way. From my perspective, tackles are tackles."

The Browns are set at right tackle after signing free agent Jack Conklin to a three-year, \$42 million contract.

Still, Berry's other signings would seem to point toward the Browns being focused on adding a left tackle. However, he warned not to look too closely at his recent record.

"I would not make any assumptions about what we may or may not do moving forward," said Berry, who was Browns vice president of player personnel from 2016-18. "My goal is to make sure that we are adding talent across the roster and adding competition across the roster. That is something that we are looking forward to continuing to do over the next several months."

Berry would not make specific comments on the team's interest in free agent defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, who remains unsigned. "Obviously, Jadeveon, he is a good football player," he said. "We are going to make sure if there is an opportunity to upgrade the team and we think it makes sense, we are going to be proactive there."

cy—the Browns have signed nine players—draft preparation and planning with first-year coach Kevin Stefanski for an upcoming season that remains uncertain.

It's been a blur of Zoom meetings, FaceTime calls with prospective players and text messages.

The Browns have done their homework and Berry said the team will conduct several "dress

rehearsals" before they're on the clock with the No. 10 overall pick in two weeks.

They're planning for every possible scenario—from good to bad to worst.

"We are going to make sure that we are prepared in any decision-making scenario that we have what we need if there was to be a kind of a Armageddon scenario with power, internet access or something

along those lines," Berry said.

Cleveland's primary need is at left tackle, a position it has only addressed with stopgap measures since perennial All-Pro tackle Joe Thomas retired before the 2018 season.

Fortunately for the Browns, this year's draft is loaded with quality tackles in Alabama's Jedrick Wills, Georgia's Andrew Thomas, Iowa's Tristan Wirfs, and Louisville's Mekhi

Becton. Wills and Wirfs have primarily played right tackle, and there are major questions whether they could handle a switch to the other side, where one of their primary responsibilities will be protecting quarterback Baker Mayfield's blind side.

The 33-year-old Berry, one of the youngest GMs in league history, feels pigeonholing players by their position is an

SWITZERLAND—FIFA president Gianni Infantino has cautioned leagues on restarting too early from the coronavirus shutdown, citing continued health concerns.

Bundesliga teams have already returned to training as they gear up for a possible May return, while Premier League clubs are hoping for a return to play in June. Both leagues have detailed that for the foreseeable future, games will be played behind closed doors to keep from masses of people spreading the virus.

Still, Infantino is cautious of these plans, hoping that leagues take public health seriously.

"No match, no competition, no league is worth risking a single human life," Infantino said. "It's better to wait a little bit longer than to take risks."

"I cannot stress this enough," he told FIFA's 211 member associations on Friday. "Our first priority, our

FIFA head warns against restarting games too early

principle, the one we will use for our competitions and encourage everyone to follow, is that health comes first. Everyone in the world should have this very clear in their mind."

Most leagues are on hold as the world copes with the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions are taking place about when to restart, and all involve playing behind closed doors first as a return to action in front of fans would likely require a vaccine before that many individuals can safely convene in a group environment.

"It would be more than irresponsible to force competitions to resume if things are not 100% safe," said Infantino. "If football manages to have a discussion where everyone contributes positively, and keeps in mind the global interest over the individual

one, I am convinced our future can be better than our past, and we will be better prepared for the times ahead."

Meanwhile, in a legal victory for former FIFA president Sepp Blatter, federal prosecutors in Switzerland plan to drop one of two cases open against him for suspected criminal mismanagement.

The Swiss attorney general's office on Saturday confirmed reports they intend to close an investigation into how Blatter and soccer governing body FIFA awarded World Cup broadcast rights in the Caribbean in 2005.

The decision is the latest example in recent weeks of the Swiss FIFA cases stalling, while the separate and cooperating American investigation sparked back into life with new

indictments and fresh allegations of World Cup bid bribery.

The criminal proceeding against Blatter was opened 4 + years ago and helped remove him from the presidential office he held for more than 17 years. He is serving a six-year FIFA ban from soccer.

A second criminal proceeding against Blatter—for a \$2 million payment he authorized to FIFA vice president Michel Platini in 2011 for uncontracted salary—remains open, the Swiss prosecution office said.

Prosecutors said in a statement they could not give a timetable for formally terminating the Caribbean investigation.

A spokesman for Blatter was contacted for comment

The investigation was opened in September 2015



after a Swiss broadcaster published a 10-year-old FIFA contract awarding the Caribbean Football Union regional broadcast rights to the 2010 and 2014 World Cups for a combined \$600,000.

The CFU was controlled by Jack Warner, the now disgraced former FIFA vice president. The rights were sold to a Jamaica-based broadcaster for a profit reportedly close to \$20 million.

The document appeared to bolster Warner's claim in 2011, after he left FIFA while implicated in bribing voters to oppose Blatter, that FIFA awarded him cheap World Cup rights in exchange for helping Blatter win presidential elections.

Swiss prosecutors said in 2015 "this contract was unfavorable for FIFA" and

suspected Blatter of acting against the world soccer body's interest. FIFA later claimed it had a 50-50 profit share with the CFU for the subsequent rights sale.

The Caribbean deal for the 2014 tournament was terminated in 2011 after Warner's resignation from FIFA. He was banned for life in 2015 after being indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice, and has since fought extradition from Trinidad and Tobago.

American and Swiss prosecutors unsealed their separate but cooperating investigations in May 2015 when several FIFA officials were arrested in hotels in Zurich two days before Blatter won re-election.

In the past month, Swiss investigations have hit problems while in the U.S., which has seen dozens of guilty pleas and convictions, prosecutors published an updated indictment Monday.

MLB squads may split into Cactus and Grapefruit



NEW YORK —

If Major League Baseball is able to pull off its quarantined version of a season, fans could see some drastically altered divisions. Have you ever wanted to see the New York Yankees beat up on the Pittsburgh Pirates for multiple games? In 2020, you may get that chance.

One of the rumored MLB season ideas revolves around eliminating the American League and National League in 2020 and instead using the Grapefruit and Cactus leagues as their replacements. In this scenario, teams would be split up in much different divisions, according to Bob Nightengale of USA Today.

Nightengale included a sketch of what the new divisions could look like. It's unclear whether this is the exact alignment MLB is considering, or if Nightengale is using

team proximity to make his best guess at how this proposal would work.

There's no guarantee this will happen. Nightengale is quick to note the league is considering many options at this point. The Grapefruit and Cactus league plan is one of them.

Those are some unique divisions, though. It would be fun to see the Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies duke it out more often, but watching the Yankees destroy the Detroit Tigers and Pirates would be less fun. These alignments would also hurt a few surprise teams like the Chicago White Sox and Cincinnati Reds. Those teams could have taken advantage of weaker divisions under a normal alignment. In this scenario, they would have to fend off the Los Angeles Dodgers. Also, the Grapefruit League South looks particularly tough.

If MLB is hoping to hold

a season in 2020, the Grapefruit-Cactus league idea makes some sense. The only way games are likely to be played in 2020 is if MLB tries to quarantine teams. Under this plan, games would only be played at spring training sites in Arizona and Florida. It would be MLB's way of trying to limit the spread of coronavirus outside those states.

There are plenty of reasons to question whether that's even a good idea. Any game would feature more than 50 people once you factor in both teams, coaching staffs, trainers, umpires, essential stadium personnel and broadcasters. To expect all those people to remain quarantined, and away

from family, for the duration of a season doesn't seem feasible. Still, if MLB is going to play games in 2020, this is likely how it would have to happen.

Here's how teams may be grouped:

Grapefruit League

North: New York Yankees, Philadelphia Phillies, Toronto Blue Jays, Detroit Tigers, Pittsburgh Pirates.

South: Boston Red Sox, Minnesota Twins, Atlanta Braves, Tampa Bay Rays, Baltimore Orioles.

East: Washington Nationals, Houston Astros, New York Mets, St. Louis Cardinals, Miami Marlins.

Cactus League

Northeast: Chicago Cubs,

San Francisco Giants, Arizona Diamondbacks, Colorado Rockies, Oakland Athletics.

West: Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Angels.

Northwest: Milwaukee Brewers, San Diego Padres, Seattle Mariners, Texas Rangers, Kansas City Royals.

Yanks most valuable in MLB

Forbes estimates the New York Yankees are baseball's most valuable franchise at \$5 billion, up 9% over last year and 47% more than the No. 2 Los Angeles Dodgers at \$3.4 billion.

The Yankees are second

among all sports in Forbes' evaluations to the Dallas Cowboys, listed at \$5.5 billion in the last NFL ranking.

The Yankees' YES Network broadcasts Forbes "Sports-Money" television show.

The Boston Red Sox are third at \$3.3 billion, Forbes said Thursday, followed by the Chicago Cubs (\$3.2 billion), San Francisco (\$3.1 billion), the New York Mets (\$2.4 billion), St. Louis (\$2.2 billion) and Philadelphia (\$2 billion).

Miami was last at \$980 million, a drop of \$20 million. Also near the bottom were Kansas City (\$1.025 billion), Tampa Bay (\$1.05 billion), Cincinnati (\$1.075 billion) and Oakland (\$1.1 billion).

Maintaining muscle and minimal strength training

Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.



With no clear end in sight yet, it's remarkable how royally insensitive people are. In the middle of this unprecedented time where we've got nothing but time, I'm reminded how painfully clear it is that there are just some folks who are oblivious and have zero perspective.

Weeks before this started to get out of hand, there was a viral post on my social media feed comparing the number of deaths from the obesity epidemic to COVID-19. At that point in time I thought to myself, "That's just plain silly and ignorant. We're on the brink of a potential outbreak and suddenly everyone is an expert on health, and infectious diseases."

Q: I don't want to put on any more weight than I already have, so I've been doing workouts outside using things I can find around the house, and running on my street. What do you think?

A: There's no right or wrong here as everyone's priorities during this time are different. Since it's going to be incredibly difficult to replicate the effort and intensity of a traditional workout in a

gym, effectively, it's going to be a far cry from what I would deem optimal. I will say it should get the job done as far as maintaining where you're currently at, though. Most of all, it's better than being sedentary.

Q: I'm trying to get some exercise regularly, but it's just not the same. I miss the gym. Given the circumstances, how often should I workout per week?

A: One of the primary vehicles for expediting results is training at a high frequency that's manageable. This essentially means those who consistently train 3-5 times a week will likely experience better outcomes than those who only workout 1-2 times a week. Although, this doesn't mean the latter option should be totally left out. Last week, I openly admitted how my motivation to train is pretty low. Given the current state, I'd wager most of you are in the same headspace. For that reason, it's fine to do whatever you're willing to do. You can even micro-dose your workouts. Meaning, with no rhyme or reason you do a little bit here and there throughout the day.

LITTLE

From Page 20

development of the crisis, while the continued delay will definitely impact the schedule of the regional/district tournaments and the World Series.

The Little League headquarters first suspended tournaments and activities until the

first week of April, prompting the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. to postpone the opening of its 2020 season. The SLLB was supposed to kick off games in the Minor, Major, Junior, and Senior League divisions last March 14.

With the second announcement, the SLLB opening will be pushed back further, while

the entire season is in danger of being shelved if the pandemic continues. Several activities around the world and under Little League sanction have either been canceled or rescheduled due to the COVID-19.

Normally, SLLB completes its season by May to get ready for the district tournament, which is usually held either late

May or early June. The CNMI District Tournament winners then compete in the Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional around June for the slots in the World Series, which is scheduled in July and August.

This year's SLLB has lured 15 teams—five each in the Minor and Major, three in the Junior, and two in the Senior.

GUINE

From Page 20

eight-time Region XIV champions, perennial participants in the NJCAA National Tournament, and once ranked No. 1 (2013) in the entire competition.

A product of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's grassroots program, Borja is excited for the chance to compete in the collegiate level and thanked all the people who made this opportunity for her possible.

"I just want to say I could not have done it without the support of our community, especially our NMIFA president Jerry Tan and the national team coaches and staff," Borja said.

Before deciding to play for the Bulldogs, Borja was a member of both the CNMI's youth and women's national teams that saw action in East Asian Football Federation and Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournaments. She last donned the Commonwealth colors in July 2019, scoring one goal in the CNMI's 3-0 win over Guam in the Marianas Cup.

Borja was also mainstay of the Paire Football Club and had her mom, Patricia Coleman, as one of her early coaches.

Coleman recalled how her then 5-year-old daughter struggled a bit trying to keep up with kids whose skill level and athleticism are way better than Borja.

"She found it challenging and stopped for a season when she was 7. She did not appear as athletic as some of her teammates, but she always seemed to try her best," Coleman said.

Borja eventually found her



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this undated file photo, Guine Borja, fifth left, joins her teammates and coach and mom Patricia Coleman for a group photo during a break in a local tournament at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

way back into the sport and credited her mom for keeping her in the program since then.

"My mom played a big role in pushing me to do my best no matter what," said Borja, who blossomed to become one of the best scorers in the women's adult and youth leagues on island and a regular with the national team.

With Borja opting to see action for the Texas-based Bulldogs, she will have the opportunity to work with a fellow national team player—Jamaica's Alicia Wilson.

"We are very blessed and thankful that she will be training under the guidance of an outstanding coach, a former Jamaican national team player, and an inspiring women's soccer trailblazer," Coleman said.

Wilson, who also played in pro leagues in Ireland and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guine Borja, left, poses with her teammates on the CNMI Women's U19 National Team after beating host Guam in the 2019 Marianas Cup, 3-0.

Costa Rica for six years, started coaching the Bulldogs in 2017 after serving as assistant at the University of West Florida and having an outstanding collegiate career with the William Carey University.

Borja is the latest player on the growing list of NMI bets who have gained a chance to experience what it's like to play collegiate soccer. Last year, Sunjoon Tenorio and Dai

Podziewski have also found a college team in Suffolk University, while Joshua Abragan made it to Boise State. Enrico Del Rosario, Gabrielle Race, Lucas Knecht, and Ryu Tazawa were the early Commonwealth players to suit up for a college team and Borja hopes more will follow.

"I hope I can inspire more people in the NMI to work towards college soccer," she said.



NBA teams
want draft
delay until
Aug. 1

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Browns new
GM prepared
for unique,
'virtual' draft

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Guine to play in college

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Another pride of the islands has been given an opportunity to play in the collegiate ranks after many-time CNMI national team player Guine Borja signed a letter of intent to suit up for Navarro College.

Borja's new team is a member of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, which oversees community college, state college, and junior college athletics throughout the U.S. The Bulldogs are the

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EAST ASIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION
The CNMI's Guine Borja, right, kicks the ball, while Macau's Ka Hei Chan tries to recover on defense during their game in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 at the soggy Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator, Mongolia in 2018.



Little League games suspension extended to May 11



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Little League headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania has extended the suspension/delay of all activities under its sanction until May 11 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As information continues to become available regarding the increasing spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), we wanted to provide you, our leagues, and district administrators, with additional guid-



ance on the implementation of the Little League program in your local communities," stated in the Little League website.

"Little League International operates more than 6,500 programs in more than 84 countries, and therefore, we recommend that our leagues exercise an abundance of caution and implement a temporary suspension/delay of all league activities until no earlier than May 11," it added.

The lifting of the suspension will depend on the de-

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this May 2019 file photo, a Talaabwogh Falcons player attempts to tag out the Kagman Little Legals' Jared Muna during their game in the Major division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Capitol Hill Ballfield. The SLLB 2020 season is still on hold.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guine Borja poses for a photo after signing a letter of intent to play for the Navarro College Bulldogs in Texas last week.